

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: صحيفة مستقلة تأسست من قبل نقابة الصحفيين الأردنيين

Libya sanctions continue unchanged

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council, after a periodic review, made no change Friday in sanctions imposed on Libya for failing to surrender for trial two suspects in the 1989 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people. The council... has reached the conclusion that there is no justification for lifting sanctions. "British U.N. envoy David Hannay told reporters after closed-door council consultations. The sanctions, which went into effect in April 1992 and are reviewed every 120 days, include an air travel embargo, a ban on the sale or transfer of arms to Libya and the downgrading of diplomatic links with that country. Additional sanctions entered into force in December 1993 because of Libya's continued failure to comply with council demands, which also include cooperating with a French magistrate investigating the mid-flight bombing of France's UTA flight 772 over Niger in 1989 in which 171 people died. These sanctions include a freeze on some Libyan assets abroad and a ban on its import of certain types of equipment used at oil transport terminals and in refineries. They do not cover the export of Libyan oil or its purchase of oil-drilling equipment.

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King, Rabin and Christopher to meet in Aqaba on Monday

Crown Prince to open Aqaba-Eilat crossing; phone links also expected to go operational

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein will hold talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at Aqaba on Monday in a meeting attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani announced Friday.

Joining the talks with Mr. Rabin, who will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on his first official visit to Jordan, will be His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali as well as senior officials.

Dr. Anani said in comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the meeting would be followed by a joint press conference and a brief tour of the Gulf of Aqaba by the King, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Christopher.

Crown Prince Hassan will represent King Hussein at a ceremony attended by Mr. Christopher and a delegation accompanying the secretary

of state to mark the opening of a crossing between Aqaba and Israel's Eilat, the information minister said.

Prince Hassan, who will be leading a Jordanian delegation including several cabinet ministers and senior officials, and Mr. Christopher are expected to make brief speeches on the occasion, he said.

Reports from Israel said Mr. Peres would lead the Israeli delegation to the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, the Israeli and American delegations are scheduled to attend a lunch hosted by King Hussein, Dr. Anani said.

Dr. Anani noted that the opening of the crossing, which will be limited to third country nationals, is part of the measures that Jordan and Israel agreed to implement in the July 25 Washington Declaration signed by King Hussein and Mr. Rabin.

Dr. Anani said the location of the crossing was selected after careful study and that it should not be considered as part of boundaries between

Jordan and Israel since the issue of demarcating boundaries is still under negotiations.

No flags will be raised at the site and there will be no celebrations marking the occasion since "the rules of official protocol can only be applied between two countries with friendly and normal relations."

Jordan and Israel have not yet reached the point of signing a peace treaty, Dr. Anani pointed out, adding that the crossing was not part of an international highway project linking Aqaba with Eilat and Taba. The highway project is under discussion and is expected to be implemented in 1995, the minister said.

Meanwhile, a report said King Hussein was considering paying a visit to Jerusalem.

The Associated Press quoted unnamed Jordanian sources as saying that no date had been set for the visit, which will follow Monday's summit in Aqaba.

One source quoted by the agency said the King would visit the Dome of the Rock

and pray at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

"It's going to be very soon, sooner than anybody expects," the source was quoted as saying. No official confirmation of the report was immediately available.

When he returned from a private visit to London on Wednesday, King Hussein flew his private jet over Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

It was the first time a Jordanian civilian jetliner had flown in Israeli airspace for nearly five decades.

After landing in Amman, King Hussein said he was "very, very moved and very, very touched" at flying over Jerusalem, and "it was a very emotional experience."

Asked whether he would respond to repeated Israeli invitations to visit Jerusalem, he said: "When I decide to go to Jerusalem, I'll do that as a Hashemite, a Muslim and a Jordanian and I'll not ask permission from anybody. This is my right."

In the July 25 declaration, Israel recognised Jordan's

historic role in Islamic shrines in Jerusalem.

Although King Hussein severed all legal and administrative links to the West Bank in 1988, he retained his role as the guardian of Muslim shrines in Jerusalem.

In addition to opening the crossing in the south, about 3.5 kilometres north of Aqaba, Jordan and Israel have also agreed to open telephone lines between them, Jordanian and Israeli officials said.

The launching of the phone lines could come with the first call being made by Mr. Christopher from Jordan, reports from Israel said.

Israeli officials close to the negotiating teams said the hookup would be completed in time for the road-opening ceremony Monday.

Direct linkage will allow Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to contact friends and relatives in Jordan. They currently must resort to costly private phone exchanges or conference calls via hired

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Work under way at the Aqaba-Eilat crossing, about 3.5 kilometres north of Aqaba (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alias)

Jewish settler wounded in Gaza

GAZA (AFP) — Palestinians shot and slightly wounded an Israeli settler near Netzarim in the Gaza Strip on Friday, residents from the settlement said. They lay in wait and opened fire at a mini-bus on a road leading to the settlement. A bullet grazed the driver. An anonymous telephone caller said the attack was the work of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a group which rejects the deal with Israel for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Jews oppose Islamic conference in London

LONDON (AFP) — British Home Secretary Michael Howard on Friday rejected demands from Jewish organisations to ban an Islamic conference expected to draw as many as 12,000 Muslims to London on Sunday. The Home Office said it did not have the authority to ban the conference being held at the Wembley sports arena by the group Hizb Al Tahrik because it was being held on private property. The Union of Jewish Students (UJS) condemned Mr. Howard's refusal to ban the conference.

"For over a year, Hizb Al Tahrik has created a climate of fear among a large section of the student population," said UJS spokesman Paul Solomon. "The government has given assurances that it takes the problem of Muslim extremism seriously," he said. "After this decision by the Home Office to let the conference go ahead, I can only wonder when these assurances will be translated into firm action."

U.N. to withdraw guards for Kurds

GENEVA (AP) — The United Nations plans to cut the number of guards protecting Kurds in northern Iraq this month because it lacks funding from member countries. The U.N.'s Department of Humanitarian Affairs Friday said donor nations had provided only 20 per cent of the funds needed for the \$288 million relief programme. In addition to security personnel, the programme provides food, water, sanitation and health services to the Kurds. In 1993, about 100 guards were recalled because of funding shortfalls.

Hariri calls Israeli raid 'intentional terrorism'

6 of 10 victims buried in Deir Al Zahrani

DEIR AL ZAHIRANI, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanon said on Friday an Israeli air raid which killed 10 civilians was an intentional terrorist attack against the villagers of South Lebanon.

Israel apologised for the killings but later said civilian casualties were unavoidable in its operations there.

Beirut dismissed the apology. It said it would file a complaint against Israel to the United Nations Security Council and ask it to denounce the Jewish state.

Thousands of grief-stricken people flocked to Deir Al Zahrani village for the funeral of six people, including two children and two women, who were killed when an Israeli warplane fired a rocket at a house on Thursday.

Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri led the emotional procession amid chants of "Allahu Akbar" and the screams of wailing women.

There was no immediate explanation on why only six people were buried in Deir Al Zahrani. Security sources had reported 10 people were

killed in the raid.

A grim-faced Hariri told reporters the raid was an "ugly crime" and said an Israeli claim that the attack was a mistake was not true.

"There are no gunmen here and no armed positions," he said. "It is clear that it is a terrorist act launched to terrorise civilians. It is a strike studied by the Israeli leadership... that does not serve peace or what is going on in the region."

"The Israeli apology is nothing but empty words," Mr. Hariri added.

Before the funeral, security sources said Israeli and allied forces exchanged fire with Hizbollah guerrillas in the south.

There were no casualties when the guerrillas fired rockets at an Israeli-backed militia position and a nearby Israeli army post on Radar Hill. Israeli and militia gunners responded by firing dozens of shells into a ridge.

The latest incidents occurred on the eve of a tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in

his quest to bridge the gap between Israel and Syria in the Middle East peace process begun almost three years ago.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri rejected the Israeli apology over the civilian casualties and said the strike was aimed at driving villagers away from South Lebanon.

"What happened... is part of a continuing series of Israeli attacks," he said. "It is an intentional act aimed at displacing southerners from their homes."

A week-long Israeli blitz of South Lebanon in July last year killed at least 150 people and forced 300,000 to flee their homes.

As the coffins were buried, Nabil Qawook, spokesman for the Shiite fundamentalist Hizbollah in South Lebanon, declared: "This massacre testifies to the dimension of Israeli terrorism which kills international laws and ethics as well as civilians."

The Deir Al Zahrani raid was one of three strikes by

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Mines threaten Yemenis

SANAA (Agencies) — The United Nations said on Friday 110,000 Yemenis were unable to return to their homes or go to work because of land mines planted during a two-month civil war which ended four weeks ago.

"Land mines are threatening the lives and livelihood of civilians and environment in the south," the U.N. spokesman in Sanaa, Nejib Friji, told Reuters.

The United Nations will issue an international appeal next week for \$23 million in emergency aid for post-war reconstruction, including mine clearing in Yemen. Mr. Friji said, quoting the findings of a U.N. mission.

"The mission has received consistent reports that the military laid land mines around strategic sites, along electricity lines, water pipes and in some civilian areas," Mr. Friji said.

The U.N. mission, which left Yemen on July 30 after touring southern provinces, quoted the governor of Shabwa as saying 23,000 mines were laid in areas considered vital by the military as well as in residential districts.

As a result, 50,000 people were unable to return to their homes.

It is believed that land mines were laid in an area extending from Little Aden to Jaar in the southern Abyan province where "major water sources, water distribution networks, and electricity lines are located," Mr. Friji added.

He said this was preventing efforts to restore water and electricity to Aden and Abyan in the south, where the final battles of the war, which ended with the defeat of southern secessionists, were fought.

The governor of Hadramawt told the mission 60,000 fishermen, nomadic herders and farmers could not work because of mines.

Mr. Friji said that in Lahj, "the mission observed unexploded artillery shells and inhabitants of the surrounding houses reported that mines had also been scattered around the area."

It said 375,000 people, 150,000 of them in Aden, were in need of food assistance.

Christopher sees signs Damascus wants peace

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher, scheduled to renew his Mideast peace shuttle on Friday, says he sees new signs that Syria is serious about peace with Israel.

Mr. Christopher, in an interview with radio reporters Thursday, also said he would ask President Hafez Al Assad again to try to curb the pro-Iranian Hizbollah group but does not believe Syria was directly connected to recent bombings against Jewish targets.

Mr. Christopher was to leave Washington mid-afternoon Friday. He is due to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on Saturday, then visit Israel, Syria and Jordan before returning home next Wednesday.

He is seeking to draw Syria further into the momentum for overall peace and cement progress already made between Israel and Jordan and Israel and the Palestinians.

Mr. Christopher repeated his spokesman's prediction that the trip would produce no breakthroughs — at least none that would be disclosed publicly — between Israel and Syria.

Still, he said: "My own impression is that there is progress to be made. I wouldn't be going out there unless I thought that it was worth the trip. It is a very significant time on the Syrian track."

Mr. Christopher put detail around U.S. claims that Syria was showing serious interest in peace with the Jewish state.

Saying "the public diplomacy aspects of this have been significant in recent days," he cited three developments.

First, Syrian television broadcast in Syria the July 25 Washington summit during which King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed a declaration ending more than 40 years of belligerency.

"That was quite an unusual event so the Syrian public and other countries in the region would recognise that Syria was not opposed to the Washington Declaration and was certainly not trying in any way to impede it," Mr. Christopher said.

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Secondly, Syrian newspapers have been running front page pictures of the King and Mr. Rabin standing and working together.

Thirdly, Mr. Assad made a speech in which he talked about peace with dignity and was upbeat about the prospect for negotiations in the Middle East.

"... Those things would not have happened in Syria at an earlier time and it's an indication to me from Mr. Assad that he is seriously pursuing the prospects for peace," Mr. Christopher said.

A senior Israeli official said that on his last trip to the region in mid-July Mr. Christopher won an assurance that Syria accepted "in principle" a new method of negotiations.

The method known by the United States as "interphase" is based on the idea of reciprocity, allowing a gradual progression towards a complete normalisation of relations.

Mr. Christopher will examine the proposals with Mr. Rabin in a bid to break the

Arafat accuses Rabin of violating self-rule deal, warns of 'explosion'

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat complained Friday that Israel was blocking implementation of key aspects of the autonomy accord.

In a meeting with a delegation of Israeli Arab members of the Ruling Labour Party, Mr. Arafat noted that it was impossible to move between the self-rule areas of Gaza and the West Bank of Jericho, that planes between the two areas were also banned and that Palestinian products were still being blocked by Israel.

"I ask you to carry this message to the Labour Party and the Israeli leadership: Such a peace can only lead to an explosion," Mr. Arafat told the delegation.

Mr. Arafat said he believed that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was responsible for the problem. Mr. Arafat said only the Palestinian side had shown a commitment to the peace process since a detailed self-rule accord was signed in

May.

"I hold Rabin responsible for the delays and obstacles in implementing the agreement," Mr. Arafat said during the meeting at his Gaza City headquarters.

Israeli officials have said they are still working on security arrangements of Palestinians to pass from Gaza to Jericho and the first significant shipment of produce from Gaza is supposed to move next week.

Since taking up permanent residence in Gaza July 12, Mr. Arafat has spent most of his days meeting delegations from around the occupied territories and Israel. Mr. Arafat turned 65 Thursday, but the occasion passed without any public comment or celebration.

Mr. Arafat also complained to the group Friday, most of whom live in the Galilee region, that Palestinians entering Gaza from Egypt were still being subjected to humiliating body searches.

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Mr. Arafat said he would discuss the issues with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he visits the Middle East next week.

"I hold the U.S., as co-sponsor, responsible for the violations of the agreement which was signed in Washington in September," Mr. Arafat said.

"I am warning that if the situation does not change, and if the peace of the brave continues to be implemented only from one side, this would lead to explosion," he said.

There was no immediate comment from Israel.

It was Arafat's first public statement directly accusing Mr. Rabin of trying to obstruct the deal by which Israel handed over most of the Gaza Strip and Jericho to Palestinians in May.

Mr. Arafat said Israel was deliberately delaying arrival of his two helicopters from the Egyptian town of Al Ar-

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'Difficult issues' still divide Israel and Syria, Clinton says

WASHINGTON (USIA) — "There are difficult issues still between Israel and Syria, but I believe both leaders (Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syria's President Hafez Al Assad) do want to make peace," President Clinton said Wednesday.

Holding a news conference during prime time television hours for the third time in his presidency, Mr. Clinton recalled two telephone conversations with Mr. Assad last month and said he was convinced that the Syrian president "is still very much interested in a comprehensive peace."

Mr. Clinton also pointed out that the White House ceremony marking the end of the state of war between Israel and Jordan was shown on Syrian state-controlled television without comment.

He said there are "other indications" as well, but he declined to specify them on the grounds that progress has come "by letting the parties make their own decisions and letting them percolate" to public view.

On Wednesday, State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said no dramatic breakthroughs were expected from this week's Mideast trip of Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Mr. Christopher, who was to leave Washington Friday, wants "to touch base with the parties following some of the recent events in the region, to assess where things are, to see if there is anything we can do in our role as an intermediary to move the process forward," Mr. McCurry said.

Asked if the United States favours early negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the status of Jerusalem as PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has suggested, the spokesman replied: "We favour the dialogue that is recommended between the parties within the declaration

of principles. That is an issue that the parties themselves have identified for discussion within the declaration and we think the declaration remains a very valid framework for their future deliberations."

Funds for PLO

Mr. Arafat has complained recently about the lack of funds flowing to Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho from the international community.

"We understand his frustrations and we hope, as a result of the secretary's recent trip to Gaza, that the PLO understands some of our frustrations," Mr. McCurry said.

"There is money available, pledged right here in this building by the international donor community that is available to the PLO... as they begin to move to their own self-governing responsibilities," he said. "But they also take on the responsibility to do that job effectively and to meet certain stipulations of the world community as the donor aid is provided."

He cited "accounting and keeping receipts and keeping payroll records" among "the simple things" that would give the international community confidence that money will be well spent.

"The secretary made it very clear... that the United States expects these types of standards to be met," Mr. McCurry said. "It's very important that we have the types of safeguards that will assure the donor community, not to mention the U.S. taxpayer, that this money is going to be well spent for projects that will transform the life of the Palestinian people in Gaza and in Jericho."

Mr. McCurry said the safeguards being sought are no different than those the World Bank and other international financial institutions expect of any grant recipient. "They even understand,"

he added, "that we're not dealing with a government here. We're dealing with an entity that's been established as a result of an agreement between the PLO and Israel."

That has been taken into account and the PLO is not being required to provide 100 per cent of the accounting normally asked for, but only about 20 per cent to begin with, he said. "They've taken that into account and yet there still seems to be a problem in getting the structures together and getting them up and running," Mr. McCurry said.

Extremist threat

The spokesman said the United States "will continue to press our concerns about terrorism and the recent terrorist activity that we have seen, which seeks to undermine the peace process."

While terrorism is "a subject of global concern," the United States raises it with Syria in bilateral discussions in order "to separate it from the multilateral nature of the peace process," McCurry said, adding that "by no means does that change the significance or the importance that we attach to the world community's interest in the problem of terrorism."

The United States has "delivered very serious messages to the government of Syria" on matters related to the Iranian-backed Hizbollah group which is based in Lebanon, the spokesman said, but he declined to be specific. "It is a subject of great concern to us. It is something that the secretary has had dialogue with the government of Syria about and we will continue to do so," he said.

Mr. McCurry noted that when Secretary Christopher testified before Congress last week he termed combating Hizbollah "a subject that compels urgent attention by the United States and that is

the level of attention that the problem is receiving."

Berlin blast suspect

On another issue, the spokesman denied a report that a U.S. delay in providing information to the German government led to the release by Lebanese authorities of the prime suspect in the 1986 bombing of the La Belle disco nightclub in Berlin. Two American soldiers and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing and more than 200 others were injured.

"We've been working with the German government for some time, exchanging a lot of information with them about the La Belle bombing case," McCurry said, adding the information was transmitted to German authorities in June.

The spokesman termed the freeing of the suspect, Yasser Chraidi, by Lebanese authorities as "both inexplicable and inexcusable."

He said the information exchanges with Germany were designed "to ensure the successful prosecution of Mr. Chraidi," rather than bring about his extradition. There is no extradition treaty between Lebanon and Germany.

Because the information involved was "sensitive" and it had to move from one government and another, "that becomes a delicate and somewhat complicated transfer of information," Mr. McCurry said.

"The notion that this material delayed somehow or other the departure of the suspect from Lebanon to Germany is inaccurate," the spokesman said. McCurry said that through "a variety of ways," the United States has suggested to the government of Lebanon "that it would be well within their interest to make sure that they know something about the whereabouts of the suspect."



ISRAELI RAID: A Lebanese soldier views local residents sitting through the debris of a destroyed two-storey house in Deir Zahran, 70 kilometres south of Beirut late Thursday

after it was hit by Israeli airplanes killing eight people and wounding at least 13 others (see page one) (AFP photo)

Iranian Kurd chief killed in Baghdad

NICOSIA (AP) — An exiled Iranian Kurdish group accused the Iranian government Friday of being responsible for the assassination of a member of its central committee in Baghdad, Iraq, the previous day.

A statement by the Paris office of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran said that Rafouf Hamzai, who is also its representative in Baghdad, was shot dead outside his home there "by terrorists of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Hamzai became the third leading Iranian Kurd to be assassinated in recent years. The leaders of the party, Abdul Rahman Qassemolou, was assassinated at his home in Vienna in 1989 and his successor Sadiq Sharafkandi was shot dead with three other Iranian Kurds in a Berlin restaurant in September 1992.

An Iranian intelligence agent and three Shiite Muslim members of the Lebanese Hizbollah, or Party of God, were charged with the Berlin killings, claiming the murders were the result of inter-Kurdish differences.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, which reported Hamzai's murder Thursday, implied he was killed by the exiled Iranian Mujahadeen-e-Khalq group, which is also based in Iraq, because of disagreements between them.

But Mujahadeen leader Masoud Rajavi issued a statement accusing Iran of carrying out the murder. He said this was "another despicable crime planned and carried out by the mullahs' regime and their diplomat terrorists."

The 6.5 million Kurds in Iran, like the estimated 12 million in Turkey and 3.5 million in Iraq, have all been involved in a protracted rebellion against their central governments demanding a measure of autonomy or independence.

Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights under U.N. review

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Israeli violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people in the context of a global charter for the protection of indigenous people under occupation and against discrimination are being studied by a specialised U.N. agency meeting in Geneva.

Also expected to be reviewed by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities are reports on the several other Middle Eastern countries and scrutiny of texts it adopted during its last session.

The human rights situation in Iran and East Timor will also be reviewed at the Aug. 1-Aug. 26 meeting along with the status of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, a statement from the U.N. Information Service said.

The commission's meeting comes as part of preparations for observing the "International Decade of the World's Indigenous People" beginning in December. The Geneva meeting will study a draft declaration on the event. A working group met in July to work on establishing a permanent forum for the indigenous people at the United Nations.

The role of the subcommission in changing world, as well as that of the United Nations in general, is examined in a number of studies and reports. The U.N. statement said. These focus on issues such as "the expansion of classical peacekeeping and the massive 'ethnic cleansing' and massacres, extensive population transfers and humanitarian disasters witnessed recently," it said.

The main agenda for the subcommission includes: — Contemporary forms of slavery. The subcommission will consider a report of a working group to review developments in the field of slavery and the slave trade in all its manifestations. Also to be examined is

progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the exploitation of child labour and debt bondage; slavery and slave-like practices during wartime; the prevention of traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others; and the work of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

— Freedom of movement. In studying this question, the subcommission will refer to a revised version of a draft declaration on the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. The situation of migrant workers and members of their families, appearing for the first time on the subcommission's agenda, will also be studied.

— Review of developments in fields of concern to subcommission. Under this item, the subcommission deals with recent developments in the field of human rights. This year, it will consider the traditional practices affecting the health of women and children.

It will also discuss the question of the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations, with the aid of a preliminary report prepared by two special rapporteurs.

On human rights and the environment, the subcommission will have before it the second progress report of its special rapporteur.

It will also consider compensation for victims of gross human rights violations; discrimination against HIV or AIDS-infected people; the definition of gross and large-scale violations of human rights as an international crime; and the declaration of minimum humanitarian standards.

— Elimination of racial discrimination. The subcommission will continue to examine the transition to democracy in South Africa.

— Violation of human

rights, particularly in colonial and other dependent countries. The subcommission will study the human rights situation in East Timor. It will also take up human rights in the Bahari and the situation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel.

— New international economic order. The subcommission will discuss the role and equal participation of women in development, taking into account the most recent reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Realisation of economic, social, cultural rights. The subcommission will have before it a preparatory document on the relationship between the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and income distribution, at both national and international levels.

— Administration of justice and human rights of detainees. The subcommission will consider the report of its working group on detention, which meets annually before the main session to formulate specific proposals regarding human rights in the administration of justice.

Another issue dealt with under this item is the question of human rights under states of emergency.

— Independence and impartiality of judiciary. — Discrimination against indigenous peoples. The draft universal declaration on indigenous rights formulated by the working group on the subject will be taken up by the subcommission at this session. There will also be before the subcommission a technical review of the text conducted by the Centre for Human Rights.

In addition, the subcommission will consider ownership and control of the cultural property of indigenous peoples; the significance of treaties concluded between indigenous peoples and states.

MPs launch political defence in Turkish court

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish members of parliament (MPs), being treason charges, told Turkish court on Friday the case was politically motivated and brought to cover up the failure of the government's own Kurdish policy.

In the first response to the prosecution's allegations tying six MPs to a Kurdish guerrilla movement, Ahmet Turk said the charges were motivated by opposition to a peaceful solution.

He denied any links between the lawmakers and Kurdish separatist guerrillas. "Our minds and our hands have been shackled... because we have opposed pressures on the Kurdish people, language and culture," Mr. Turk, former chairman of the now-banned Kurdish-based Democracy Party (DEP), told the State Security Court.

Leyla Zana, the only woman among the six MPs on trial, said: "This case is not legal but political and its outcome will be determined by political developments rather than legal ones."

"We are accused because we wanted a peaceful solution to the Kurdish issue, a solution with love and tolerance," Mr. Turk said. "The indictment against us was prepared so someone would pay the bill for the

government's failures. Prime Minister Tansu Ciller in public statements sentenced us without a trial for the sake of catching more votes in local elections (in March)."

Mr. Turk, four other DEP deputies and an independent Kurdish MP were arrested after parliament lifted their immunities in March at the request of the security court. The Kurdish-based DEP was banned in June.

If convicted the MPs could face the death penalty.

Prosecutors spent the first two days of the trial, which is expected to last for months by reading the 452-page indictment which alleges links between the legislators and the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

More than 12,500 people have died in Turkey since 1984 when the outlawed PKK launched a fight for a separate state in southeast Turkey. The government ruled out a political solution and has vowed to defeat the PKK on the battlefield.

Mr. Turk denied the prosecution's contention that DEP and its predecessor HEP were linked to the PKK.

"These were legally-formed parties which have received government subsidy under laws," he said.

Hundreds held after riots in Iranian city

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police rounded up hundreds of demonstrators in the industrial city of Ghazvin to end rioting which left four dead, dozens injured and caused widespread damage, informed sources said Friday.

According to witnesses contacted by telephone, the city was "relatively calm" and traffic had returned to normal.

A police official said that roads to and from Ghazvin had been reopened after the authorities sealed off the city and its million inhabitants on Thursday.

The Iranian media provided no figures on the number of arrests or the casualties from the riots, but witnesses said that at least four people were killed and hundreds of others wounded during clashes between the demonstrators and security forces.

Informed sources said police had arrested hundreds of people to stop the riots which also caused extensive damage to public buildings.

The city was calm on Friday. Witnesses said police prevented people from holding gatherings throughout the city and "a kind of curfew" has been imposed.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who led the Friday prayers in

Tehran, made no mention of the events in Ghazvin.

Without giving any figures, Interior Ministry official Gholam-Hussein Bolandian said a number of those arrested had come from outside Ghazvin and that the authorities were investigating their presence in the city.

He warned that the authorities "distinguished between the revolutionary people of Ghazvin and elements who tried to disrupt peace and stability."

Violence broke out after a government proposal to create a new province with Ghazvin as the capital was narrowly defeated in the Iranian parliament.

It was rejected under pressure from conservatives who said it was not in the country's interests.

Ghazvin, which was the country's capital in the 1920s and is now among the most industrialised cities in Iran, has been a part of Zanjan province.

The city, 140 kilometres west of Tehran, has been pushing to become a province.

Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besbarati travelled to the city to try to defuse the situation and announced that Ghazvin would in future be administered under Tehran province.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Coup De Bleu Dans L'Etoile
17:11 Pantomime
17:30 Le Monde Sous Marin
18:30 News in French
18:45 Ushuaia
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Movies, Games, and Videos
21:30 The Campbells
21:10 One To One
22:00 News In English

PRAYER TIMES

04:22 Fajr
05:49 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Asr
16:22 Maghreb
21:02 Isha

CHURCHES

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Church of the Annunciation Tel.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly to westerly, moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halasa 819220
Dr. Khalil Abu Majdeh 785525
Dr. Khaleel Mu'adi 743590
Dr. Jamil Maras 776149
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Najoud pharmacy 62672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
AMMAN:
Dr. Ahmad Oanu (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shahin 995710
Khalil pharmacy 965417

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 22 per cent, Agaba 19 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 845022
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Aila Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 6442816
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 66417114
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mutahajren 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafia 77511226
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Aila Hospital 60224050
Ansal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga Maternity Hospital (09)986732
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)900564
Al Hikam Modern Hospital (09)989990
RIBDA:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Rm Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (09)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200. 5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:30 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Agaba (RJ)
10:15 Dhahran (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
11:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:50 Cairo (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:25 London, Berlin (RJ)
05:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OA)
13:30 Muscat, Doha (GF)
15:45 Rome, Larnaca (AZ)
20:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:30 Sanaa (YV)
23:25 Amsterdam (KL)
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Agaba (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:35 Paris (RJ)
12:40 Sanaa (YV)
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)
13:45 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:55 Jeddah (RJ)
14:30 Madrid (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 Larnaca (RJ)
21:45 Jeddah (RJ)
23:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
13:50 Agaba (RJ)
14:30 Vienna (OA)
20:00 Abu Dhabi (GF)
21:00 Sanaa (YV)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:25 Amsterdam (KL)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.

Apple 600/480
Banana (Mekummar) 620
Cabbage 120/80
Carrot 240/160
Cauliflower 160/80
Cucumbers (small) 240/160
Eggplant 180/100
Fig 450/250
Garlic 800/400
Lemon 340/240
Marrow (large) 150/100
Marrow (small) 120/80
Okra 1000/600
Onion (dry) 250/180
Pumpkin 700/400
Sweet Melon 150/100
Pepper (hot) 240/160
Pepper (sweet) 240/160
Potato 400/250
Peaches 800/500
Tomato 150/70
String beans 400/250
Watermelon 130/80

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
08:00 Agaba (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:35 Paris (RJ)
12:40 Sanaa (YV)
12:45 Istanbul (RJ)
13:45 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:55 Jeddah (RJ)
14:30 Madrid (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 Larnaca (RJ)
21:45 Jeddah (RJ)
23:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
13:50 Agaba (RJ)
14:30 Vienna (OA)
20:00 Abu Dhabi (GF)
21:00 Sanaa (YV)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:25 Amsterdam (KL)



A MUSICAL UNION: Her Majesty Queen Huda Friday evening attends the performance by the National Music Conservatory (NMC) Concert Band in a musical union with the Jerash Festival. The band, at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts, about 120 musicians gathered at the Artemis Theatre to perform a

U.S. debt relief to yield net impact of \$755m on foreign debts — Anani

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — American debt relief to Jordan would have a net impact of \$755 million on the Kingdom's foreign debts, starting with a write-off of \$220 million before the end of September, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Friday.

Speaking one day after the U.S. House of Representatives endorsed a compromise foreign aid bill that includes a provision for debt relief for Jordan, Dr. Anani said Jordan expected the rest of the Kingdom's public debts to the U.S. to be deleted in 1995 and 1996. American fiscal years run from October to September.

"The net impact of American debt relief to Jordan will be \$755 million in the next three U.S. fiscal years," Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times. "This amount represents the public debts of Jordan to the government of the United States."

That was an updated figure from earlier reports that Jordan was getting \$696 million in debt write-off from Washington. Dr. Anani explained that under a move called "crossing," the actual amount of write-off would be \$755 million while the reference figure for congressional procedures would be \$696 million.

Total Jordanian debts to the U.S. stand at around \$950 million, but the amount that could be considered, under American parameters, is \$755 million, Dr. Anani said.

"The rest of the amount represents loans guaranteed by the government of Jordan to American suppliers" of goods and services, Finance Minister Sami Gannab has said, adding that Jordan's definition of government debts differed from Washington's. The bill, endorsed by a 341-85 vote as supplemental appropriations for fiscal 1994 by the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday, now goes before the Senate, which is also expected to approve it soon before forwarding to the White House for President Bill Clinton's signature.

The British government became the second Western government to offer debt relief to Jordan after the signing of the historic Washington Declaration by His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on July 25.

Prime Minister John Major announced last Thursday that his government was converting to grants nearly \$60 million in loans given to Jordan through the Overseas Development Administration (ODA).

Sources here said the amount represented all Jordanian official debts to the government of Britain. Amman also owes Britain nearly \$450 million in loans guaranteed by export credit guarantee agencies, but this amount is not under immediate consideration for write-off.

Diplomatic sources said other Western governments grouped under the Paris Club of creditor countries were being lobbied by the U.S. to extend similar debt relief to Jordan. The status of those efforts was not immediately known, but several governments were reportedly arguing against the move, pointing out that they had agreed only last month to reschedule up to \$1.21 billion of the Kingdom's debts due until 1997.

The \$13.7 billion foreign aid and export assistance bill adopted Thursday includes \$3 billion in American military and economic aid to Israel and \$2.1 billion for Egypt.

In addition, the bill provides \$50 million in emergency relief for Rwanda, \$20 million through disaster aid programmes and \$30 million through refugee funds. Also in the bill is \$850

million for former Soviet republics, \$359 million for Eastern Europe and the Baltic states, \$802 million for the Development Fund for Africa and a set of restrictions on military aid to Indonesia, Greece and Turkey.

In providing aid to the former Soviet republics, the bill recommends — but does not require — that \$150 million go to Ukraine, \$75 million to Armenia and \$50 million to Georgia.

In response to Indonesia's human rights record in East Timor, the bill bans small arms sales to Indonesia.

And it withholds 10 per cent of Turkey's \$364.5 million in military aid loans pending a report addressing allegations of abuses against civilians in Cyprus, and holds back 10 per cent of Greece's \$255 million in military aid loans while a report is done on charges that Greece violated United Nations sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Archaeologists discover ancient ruins, building in Ain Ghazal excavation

AMMAN (Petra) — Archaeological excavations at Ain Ghazal area had unearthed several buildings and ruins dating back to 7,250-4,500 B.C., according to Zeid Kafafi, director of Yarmouk University's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology which is carrying out the excavations in cooperation with Harvard University and the Department of Antiquities.

Dr. Kafafi said excavation teams had discovered unique statues made of plaster and supported by reeds and weeds. He said these flat statues depict humans with long necks and short legs.

The teams also discovered mud toys in the shape of humans and animals, said Dr. Kafafi, who added that two of the recently discovered statues are currently being displayed at the Jordan Archaeology Museum after having been restored in London.

Dr. Kafafi said that several archaeology students from the Heidelberg University in Germany and the Bir Zeit University on the West Bank are currently at the Ain Ghazal excavation site training with the professional teams working there.

Bir Zeit University archaeologist Mohammad Mubel Al Zawahreh said the university's delegation is working at the site to acquire skills needed in archaeological excavations.

He said his students are now familiar with the animal environment which prevailed in the area during the Stone Age, noting that bones of goats, sheep, and deer were discovered in the area.

On Thursday, the excavation site was visited by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan who inspected the work progress.

Meanwhile, the Antiquities Department Thursday began excavations at Al Alia site in Al Qasr district in cooperation with an American team.

Al Qasr district antiquities inspector Hakem Al Mahameed said antiquities in the area date back to prehistoric times.

He said excavation works at the site will continue for four weeks.

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Egyptian hanged for murder

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 35-year-old Egyptian national was hanged Thursday at Swaga Prison, for stabbing his wife to death, Abdul Fatah S. Abdul 'Al, became the sixth convict to be executed in Jordan since the beginning of this year.

The convict's wife, Zeinab (25), also an Egyptian, tried to prevent her husband from burglarising a school where she was employed.

Mrs. Abdul 'Al noticed her husband and confronted him, said the court.

The husband drew a knife and stabbed his wife several times in different parts of her body. He was later apprehended by the authorities.

That glimpse of Palestine

A life-long dream for many Jordanians

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian people, for 27 years severed from the West Bank by Israeli occupation and denied a glimpse of Palestine by a state of war with Israel, may soon fulfill life-long dreams.

The cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Jericho, located in a fertile zone of hills and valleys west of the Jordan River, live in the memories of many Jordanians, half of whom are of Palestinian origin.

The scheduled opening of the Aqaba-Eilat road link for third country nationals which will be launched on Monday will positively affect visitors of both countries as well as residents of Jordan and Israel in the near future.

Jordan and Israel have agreed on a crossing point 3.5 kilometres north of Aqaba to be called Araba crossing. A 50-metre-long road will connect the two border checkpoints.

Having the longest Arab borders with the occupied territories, Jordan looks at the possibility of peace in the region with the hope that it will soon have access to the West Bank.

Many Jordanians of different origins and ages are anticipating a visit to the West Bank and Israel after Jordan and Israel reach a peace treaty.

"I would love to visit my father's homeland, the magnificence of which I have been hearing about ever since I was a child," said Salma, a 23-year-old Jordanian whose father comes from Bethlehem.

Observers say that while the Palestinian refugees who left Palestine after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War are unlikely to return to the West Bank to live, a good number of Palestinians who left the occupied territories after the 1967 war may consider settling in their original homeland provided it falls under Palestinian rule.

Whether to live, tour or shop, many are resolved to set foot in the area which for over four decades has been equivalent to the forbidden apple.

Breakthroughs in that direction have been taking place to paving the way for all sorts of open communication between Jordan and Israel.

On a symbolic level, His Majesty King Hussein flew over Israeli airspace on his way home from London last Wednesday after a historic visit to the United States where he signed the Washington Declaration with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and announced the end to the state of war between Jordan and the Jewish state.

Moreover, direct telephone services between Israel and Jordan could be available as early as Monday.

day, in accordance with the Washington Declaration signed on July 25.

Many Jordanians desiring to cross to the West Bank are driven by the curiosity to see the land they are geographically and emotionally attached to.

"I want to visit the West Bank and Israel out of curiosity. It would be amazing to see the land which kept us at war for tens of years," said a Jordanian mother and wife named Hind.

In the climate of peace, Jordanian businesspersons are determined to reap the benefits of peace through exploiting the opportunity of open trade.

Businesspersons are optimistic that peace will have a positive effect on Jordan's economy, which one local businessman described as having "sunk to the bottom of the well," adding that if anything, "it cannot get any worse."

Haifa, which climbs from its harbour off the Mediterranean up the green slopes of Mount Carmel is viewed by Jordanian businesspersons as an outlet for trade and shipping services.

A delegation of Jordanians involved in shipping services were said by Israeli reports to have recently been to Haifa to discuss with Israeli the possibility of using its port for shipping purposes in the near future as an outlet for expanding their services, which, at the moment, are conducted through Jordan's sole port, Aqaba.

Jerusalem, which has been a holy site to Christians, Muslims and Jews throughout history, is a city where many Jordanians would like to pray.

A 45-minute drive by car from Amman could take Jordanians to the holy city, which Qais, a Muslim Jordanian, described as "so near, yet so far away."

Like King Hussein, Qais plans to pray in Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque "as soon as I could" to fulfill "his dream."

King Hussein said that he "has received several invitations to visit Jerusalem," and that he plans to visit it soon, as it is his "right as a Muslim, a Hashemite and an Arab" to do so.

Watchtowers at Eilat in Israel, just across the Gulf from Aqaba, can be seen through binoculars from the Kingdom's port city. The distance described by a Jordanian official as a "five minute walk," has also been described as a "trip of a lifetime."

However, observers believe that soon Jordanians will find themselves trekking through the Aqaba-Eilat highway to spend the day in Eilat and then drive back.

"I will go on the first trip organised to Eilat," said 18-year-old Reem.

Life's lessons in a children's play

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Comic and fiction shook hands to present the children's moral filled play "Long Live the Dead Sea" at the Sound and Light Theatre Wednesday night.

The play tells the story of Amer, a Jordanian citizen who returns to Jordan after 30 years abroad. He decides to invest his fortune in freezing the Dead Sea and establishing an ice skating centre. According to his expectations, the project is feasible and should improve the national economy.

A group of Jordanians advise him that the frozen Dead Sea would harm the environment, climate, and the unique aspect of the sea. Yet, Amer insists that his project should be implemented. The result is disaster.

At the end of the play the Jordanians decide to bring life back to the Dead Sea, and reached a conclusion that no amount of money could be a worth price to destruction.

Throughout the play, playwright and director Vesna Mashariqa made a compromise between fantasy and the real world of children. Children fantasised about creatures who died later. Mrs. Mashariqa, a drama teacher, succeeded to portray a children's world that held the audience's attention through to the end.

The idea of the story clicked in my mind when I noticed that most of my students appreciate the cultures of other nations more than theirs." Vesna Mashariqa told the Jordan Times. "In class, I usually gave different topics concerning traditions and behaviours. Lately I got the impression that children reject the Jordanian culture and prefer instead foreign ones. They think that foreign cultures are better than theirs."

"In the last three years, I was very sorry. So it just came to my mind to get children to love their country and get more involved in it by presenting bad examples to get to the point," added Mrs. Mashariqa.

The play does not only teach children how to love their country, but it involves various lessons of great importance for now

and in the future. In addition to introducing the history of the Dead Sea, its location on the map, and its physical properties, the play also teaches the traditions of Jordan's bedouins, as well as other ideas like, imitating foreign models is wrong, thinking of fortune should not be our goal in life, and that some outsiders may use technology to destroy our beloved nature.

Mrs. Mashariqa was very much impressed by children's reactions during the rehearsals.

"They loved the idea to the extent that they brought their sisters and brothers to participate. So, everything was doubled. Instead of 15 actors, I gave roles to 30 children. I taught them how to deal with the audience and everything on the stage. To my surprise, I got correct spontaneous reactions," said Mrs. Mashariqa.

In addition to the 30 child actors, there were two professional actors participating in the show, one of whom is the hero Amer, played by Egyptian actor Mohammad Ghobashy. Mr. Ghobashy was well-chosen for the role of a "foreignised" man with his beach costume and his destroyed Jordanian accent due to the effect of English on him.

"I care about children's theatre," Mr. Ghobashy told the Jordan Times. "I had many courses in the theatre of education, puppet and live. I got a certificate from the academy of Fine Arts in Amman in 1988. I appreciate the theatre that offers a message for kids. I think it is an original way of expressing ideas and growing them in the children's minds."

Mr. Ghobashy said that he spent about 30 years working in this field. This play is his second with Mrs. Mashariqa, the first was "The Question" in 1993. He also did two puppet shows: "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves" and "Nana Tales."

The second professional actor was Mohammad Jad'an, who played the role of a Jordanian citizen who

loved his country with all its traditions, costumes, dialect, and behaviour.

Throughout the play and especially by its end, there was a tangible rapport between the actors and the audience...the actors asking and the audience responding. "Melt the ice...melt the ice," reflected that the message reached its goal, and children understood that nothing is worthy of love more than their country.

Rich with values, the show, which was attended by the largest audience of the children's plays, ended by convincing Amer to leave his crazy idea and to dance some Jordanian dances to express his love to Jordan, and...long live the Dead Sea.



Playwright and director Vesna Mashariqa and most of the cast of "Long Live the Dead Sea" prior to a rehearsal

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A laborious lecture in theatre

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab Theatre in Paris last week participated in the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts with the Moroccan play "Anthology of Banishment and Martyrdom," but to the audience it was more like watching an arduous epic.

Presenting a broken picture of today's Arab society, and cries of a writer who never ended his plays, director Nasser Edine Boushqi interspersed pantomime throughout the play.

To serve the topic, famous Arab historical events and characters were chosen as symbols to refer to certain ideas... Nairoun, the tyrant; Juha, the wicked character; God, the greatest power, and writer, Ihsan Abdul Qudous. Nairoun may refer to former U.S. President George Bush or any other "tyrant" in the Arab World

or elsewhere, and the writer may refer to any one who documents the events.

Relying on standard modern Arabic, the director introduced an international concept of corruption in today's society; how one sells his brother for a penny, Arab flag in defeat, Arab revolt to achieve victory, animal's rights and martyrdom.

Mr. Boushqi told the Jordan Times that the playwright, Mohammad Meskeen used to sympathise with the Arab World. Mr. Meskeen believed in lifting all borders between the Arab nation. He never dealt with parts of it, rather he looked at it as one human reality.

The play, the 13th directed by Mr. Boushqi, again had no ending, with the actors waiting for the sun to rise, and each one in the audience searching for the end to suit his or her mentality, thoughts and knowledge.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

- JERASH FESTIVAL**
 - ★ Concert by the National Folk Dance Ensemble at the Sound and Light Theatre at 21:00.
 - ★ Concert by Al Jeel Club of Armenian folklore at the South Theatre at 20:30.
 - ★ Play entitled "Black Comedy" by Majd Al Qasas at the Artemis Theatre at 21:30.
- DRAMA**
 - ★ Monodrama: "Anthology of Martyrdom and Exile" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.



SKAL CLUB OF AMMAN

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP OF TOURISM



All members of Amman Skal Club representing various private tourist sectors in Jordan, congratulate

His Majesty King Hussein

on the courageous steps he has taken on the road to peace, and express their absolute loyalty to His Majesty and applaud his foresight in seeking a better future for Jordan and generations to come.



Some 1,000 Islamic fundamentalists demonstrate calling for the punishment of Bangladeshi feminist writer Taslima Nasreen, who witnesses and sources say still fears for her life and is depressed (AFP photo)

Militants continue protest against Bangladeshi writer

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 1,000 Islamic militants calling for the death of feminist writer Taslima Nasreen marched through Dhaka Friday but police put up barbed wire barricades to prevent them from heading towards her home.

The marchers poured onto the streets at the Baitul Mokarram Mosque in the city centre, nearly two kilometres from an apartment where Ms. Nasreen lives as a refugee, witnesses said.

"There will be no relenting in our campaign for death of this apostate," Ms. Nasreen said. "She is unforgivable."

Ms. Nasreen is a prominent writer and a member of the Islamic Constitution Movement.

Tight security forced the militants to keep their protests confined to an avenue

U.S. seeks nuclear test ban accord

GENEVA (AP) — The United States urged international negotiators to agree on a treaty banning all nuclear tests by next April when the 25-year-old nuclear non-proliferation treaty comes up for renewal.

John Holm, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said President Bill Clinton wants a new agreement "at the earliest possible time."

Mr. Holm's timetable, presented to the 38-nation Conference on Disarmament, was the most specific so far by the Clinton administration. An agreement reached in 1995 would come exactly 50 years after the first atomic blast at Alamogordo, New Mexico.

But Mr. Holm rejected any "artificial linkage" between a universal test ban and the non-proliferation treaty, saying the United States supported each accord individually.

The United States fears that any disagreement over the test ban treaty may complicate renewal of the non-proliferation treaty, which automatically expires unless all signing countries vote to continue it and the majority of countries ratify it.

After years of cold war stalemate, negotiations aimed at achieving a total ban on testing of nuclear weapons started in January.

In recent months, the United States, Russia, Britain and France have suspended all tests, which carried out an underground test last October, has been reluctant to agree to a complete ban.

Mr. Holm said he "deeply regretted" China's nuclear testing and "strongly urged" Beijing to stop.

"There is no reason for continued testing in the context of the global security environment as it stands now," he said.

"None of us can rest — none can be satisfied by our noteworthiness progress to date — until the world's nations have agreed once and for all to stop testing nuclear weapons," Mr. Holm said.

U.S., N. Korea resume high-level talks

GENEVA (AFP) — The United States and North Korea resumed high-level talks Friday with both sides open to a package deal involving Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons programme and economic and political concessions.

But prospects for progress at the first bilateral discussions since the death of long-time ruler Kim Il-Sung appeared to be muddy by a defiant statement from the North Korean Foreign Ministry.

It said special inspections of two disputed nuclear facilities, a key Western demand in the long-running controversy, could not be a "main topic" on the agenda here, according to the official North Korean News Agency (KCNA).

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says the two sites may be for storing nuclear waste and that inspecting them is essential to determine if North Korea has diverted nuclear fuel to make weapons.

Following a defector's report that North Korea had five nuclear bombs, John Holm, director of the U.S. Arms control and disarmament agency said here Thursday that he had not seen "any indication anywhere that North Korea has a potential capability of more than one or two nuclear weapons."

IAEA demands to check

Restive Russian forces put on 'combat readiness' in Moldova

MOSCOW (AP) — Restive forces led by Russia's most popular and outspoken general were put on "combat readiness" in the former Soviet republic of Moldova Friday in response to reports he would be ousted by Moscow.

"If Gen. (Alexander) Lebed does not return, consequences will be hard to predict," his top aide, Col. Mikhail Bergman, told the Associated Press by telephone from Tiraspol, the capital of Moldova's breakaway Trans-Dniester region.

The uproar over Gen. Lebed reflects the disarray and uncertain loyalties throughout the armed forces since the Soviet collapse in 1991. Gen. Lebed, who has openly criticised President Boris Yeltsin's treatment of the military, has given voice to the feelings privately held by many demoralised servicemen.

Some recent polls have showed him far more popular among soldiers than Defence Minister Pavel Grachev. A Yeltsin appointee.

Commissioned and non-commissioned officers in the 14th Army were ordered to stay in their barracks with their troops to prevent the capture of arms depots by forces loyal to Igor Smirnov, Trans-Dniester's self-styled president, Col. Bergman said.

A spokesman for the defence ministry in Moscow said that the action amounted to putting the soldiers on "a higher degree of combat readiness," he spoke on condition of anonymity.

The 14th Army is believed to have about 2,000 officers and men, as well as huge supplies of weapons and ammunition. It has been stationed in Trans-Dniester since 1992, when it was sent to stop a bloody civil war between Russian-speaking separatists and the central Moldovan government.

An estimated 1,500 people were killed in the fighting.

Col. Bergman said Gen. Grachev had ordered the 14th Army disbanded and its commander dismissed to Oblige pro-Russian author-

Serbs seize heavy weapons as tensions rise in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb forces seized back a tank and other heavy weapons from a United Nations storage site Friday in an escalation of tension following Yugoslavia's decision to cut ties with the Bosnian Serbs.

Hundreds of loaded trucks bound for Bosnian Serb territory were turned back by Serbian police amid scenes of chaos at one of the main crossing points.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, anxious to avoid stiffer sanctions, severed economic and political links with his proteges in Bosnia following their continued refusal to accept the latest international peace plan.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic reacted defiantly, telling his people they must be ready to fight on alone.

"We simply must get by with what we've got," he said on Belgrade's Studio B Television Thursday evening. "We are prepared to be hungry, naked and barefoot, but we must fight for our freedom."

Bosnian Serb Forces defied the threat of NATO air strikes and took back a tank, two armoured personnel carriers and an anti-aircraft cannon from a U.N.-guarded weapons collection point on territory they hold near Sarajevo.

The weapons were among nearly 300 handed in by the Serbs as part of an agreement

Nigeria stands still despite end of strike

LAGOS (R) — The suspension of a general strike failed to breathe economic life back into the Nigerian commercial capital Lagos Friday, while a more damaging stoppage by oil workers was still in full swing.

In the federal capital Abuja, where a summit of West African nations was due to open later Friday, leaders of the umbrella Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) resumed negotiations with military rulers on freeing presidential claimant Moshood Abiola, whose detention has thrown Nigeria into crisis.

"We met last night but have not concluded (talks)," NLC President Pascal Bafyau told Reuters.

Mr. Abiola is on trial in Abuja for treason for proclaiming himself president.

More than half the presidents of the 16-member Economic Community of West African states are staying away from their annual summit because of the crisis in Nigeria and problems in their own countries.

The oil unions NUPENG and PENGASSAN have separately been on strike to press not only for Mr. Abiola's release but also his installation as president.

They said they would continue their action, which has disrupted fuel supplies and shut many businesses.

"The suspension (of the general strike) has not made any difference because the bank is still not open," said Maureen Moneke, a housewife who went to her bank in Lagos early Friday hoping to get cash.

There is a severe cash squeeze in the southwest because most banks are closed, and some firms have had to draw money from branches in the north or east to pay wages.

Mr. Abiola, a millionaire businessman from the Yoruba-speaking southwest, was well ahead in the June 12, 1993, vote when the military government scrapped it without explanation.

Resentment over the annulment has been highest in the southwest, although Mr. Abiola won votes nationwide.

NLC President Bafyau said he hoped negotiations with the government would end later Friday but declined to discuss the sticking points.

The NLC strike had far less impact than that of the oil unions.

Crude oil sales account for more than 90 per cent of Nigeria's foreign income. Oil output has been curtailed by the strike and exports delayed, pushing up world oil prices to a year's high.

Gunboat seizes British fishing gear

LONDON (R) — A British gunboat patrolling off northern Spain in Europe's "tuna war" confiscated fishing gear Friday from a British trawler suspected of using over-long nets.

The HMS Anglesey was sent to the Bay of Biscay after Spanish fishermen attacked British trawlers.

British fishermen accused the Spanish of piracy after their nets were slashed. Madrid said British and French trawlers were using illegally long nets that broke European Union rules.

But then, in a surprise twist to the clashes on the high seas, inspectors from the Anglesey confiscated gear from the British tuna trawler Charisma.

"It was confiscated on suspicion of an offence being committed under EU regulations," a ministry of agriculture spokesman said.

After reports of three trawlers being attacked by Spanish fishermen, London issued a diplomatic protest to Madrid and despatched the Anglesey.

"Spain is tweaking the lion's tail and the lion is not roaring," Mike Townsend, a British fishing industry spokesman, said as the first of the British Trawlers returned home.

Skipper Ian McCrindle said the Spaniards surrounded his trawler and dragged his nets with grappling hooks. Showing reporters the torn nets, he accused the Spaniards of "an act of piracy. They took the law into their own hands."

An Irish trawler also returned to Ireland Friday after



A Coast Guard crewman talks to a group of Cuban refugees on board the Coast Cutter Nantucket as the cutter prepares to dock in Key West, Fla. The Coast Guard rescued 190 Cubans from the Cuban ferry La Coubre after the ship ran out of gas northeast of Havana (AFP photo)

Cuban group hijacks ferry to U.S.

MIAMI (R) — The U.S. Coast Guard said it intercepted a Cuban ferryboat with 190 people aboard Thursday, and that it was bringing 117 who had requested asylum to Key West, Florida.

The other 73 Cubans on board the La Coubre, found adrift in international waters about 50 kilometres north of Havana, asked to be returned home and were transferred to Cuban government vessels that were in the area, the Coast Guard said.

Cuban authorities Thursday condemned the hijacking.

The Communist Party newspaper Granma called the incident a "criminal act of terrorism and piracy."

In an editorial, the newspaper strongly condemned U.S. authorities for what Havana says is a policy of encouraging illegal exits from the Communist-ruled Caribbean island.

And a deputy in the National Assembly raised the issue during a session of the parliament, saying, "we should deeply reject an act of vandalism of this type."

Cuban authorities reported earlier that about 15 people

armes with handguns, a grenade and machetes had commandeered the ferryboat full of passengers Wednesday to take it to the United States.

The incident marked the second time in eight days that a water taxi — used to carry passengers across the bay in the Cuban capital — has been hijacked by people wanting to leave the Communist-ruled Caribbean island illegally.

The boat set off about noon to make the five-minute trip from the suburb of Casablanca to a dock in old Havana, the Communist Party newspaper Granma said.

The daily had reported that seven of the passengers opted not to go along with the hijackers when they commandeered the boat and jumped overboard while the boat was still in the bay.

It and the Cuban News Agency, Prensa Latina, quoted these people as condemning the hijackers for their behaviour.

Granma quoted Interior Ministry officials as saying the ferry was followed by two Cuban Coast guard vessels and two civilian vessels, which kept a prudent distance and aimed to pick up

any passengers jumping off the ferry or to help the boat if it ran into trouble.

"At no moment did the (Cuban) Coast Guard vessels try to intercept the hijacked vessel, to avoid accidents," Granma said.

Last month 32 Cubans drowned when the tugboat they had stolen to try to leave the island capsized after colliding with a pursuing government vessel.

But with no attempt made to stop the two Havana ferries from leaving, authorities are clearly wary of another tragedy.

Granma said Cuban authorities had informed the U.S. Coast Guard of the latest hijacking from the first moment. The U.S. Coast Guard confirmed that it had been contacted by Cuban officials, who asked that the boat be helped.

The incident Wednesday was the latest involving a steady trickle of Cubans leaving the island illegally to make the 145 kilometre crossing of the Strait of Florida.

The number of people making the journey, often using flimsy rubber rafts, has jumped this year amid Cuba's severe economic crisis.

U.S.-led invasion of Haiti is not viable until mid-September

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A U.S.-led invasion to restore democracy in Haiti will not be viable until at least mid-September because of the time needed to enlist and train a multinational force, The Washington Post said Friday.

Quoting unidentified senior administration officials, the daily said the conclusion was reached during a series of high-level meetings on Haiti this week, some of which were attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The officials said they also needed time to seal tight Haiti's border with the Dominican Republic, through which 30 per cent of Haiti's energy needs in gasoline and oil flow, despite an international economic blockade.

"It will be a matter of some weeks," before the United States is ready to invade, one official told the daily, although he stressed that a military intervention could come immediately if American lives in Haiti were threatened.

Mr. Clinton said in a press conference Wednesday that it was "premature" to invade Haiti despite what he described as overwhelming U.S. interests in restoring democracy to the region.

Plans for a U.S.-led, multinational intervention to remove Haiti's military leaders from power and restore deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, received the go ahead from the U.N. Security Council Sunday.

U.S. efforts to enlist foreign forces, however, have so far been inconclusive. Jamaica Thursday said it

would participate in a peacekeeping operation in Haiti but it was not clear whether it would take part in an invasion.

Argentina appeared to backtrack on its decision last week to join an invasion force, with its foreign minister saying Thursday that Argentina favoured limiting its role to creating a sanctuary to protect Haitian civilians.

Officials told the Times that Mr. Clinton had "a great number of individual decisions to make." These included an assessment of whether economic sanctions had failed, whether to set a deadline for the Haitian military to step down and perhaps an ultimatum, and whether to enlist support in the U.S. Congress for an invasion.

Some officials, including Defence Secretary William Perry, were against setting a deadline, fearing that it could be leaked to the public, compromising the invasion effort.

There was also disagreement at the meetings over whether any financial inducements should be offered to Haitian General Raoul Cedras and other military leaders to have them leave voluntarily, the official added.

Gen. Cedras was one of the coup leaders who ousted Mr. Aristide in September 1991.

Haiti's military-backed government, meanwhile, expelled a three-person U.S. television crew Thursday after they filmed a runway and radar at the Port-Au-Prince Airport.

The international com-

munity has imposed an air embargo on Haiti aimed at pressuring Haiti's military leaders to step down and the measure has brought airplane traffic to a halt in Port-Au-Prince.

The crew wanted to get footage of the empty airport and runways but filming the airport is illegal under new security measures ordered because of the threat of a foreign invasion to oust Haiti's military leaders.

The three reporters, from the MacNeil/Lehrer News-hour, were escorted to Haiti's border with the Dominican Republic by police and immigration officials, witnesses said. The two countries share the island of Hispaniola.

They were the first foreign reporters to face such action under a decree, issued in June and reiterated Tuesday.

"This is definitely a way to intimidate foreign journalists," said the team's correspondent, Elizabeth Farnsworth, shortly before her departure.

Ms. Farnsworth and two colleagues, cameraman John Knoop and soundman Jamie Kibben, were detained on July 31 after being accused of trespassing and held for four hours before being released.

On Wednesday immigration officials arrived at their hotel with a deportation order, which was carried out Thursday in the presence of a U.S. consular official.

A Haitian driver and an interpreter working with the team were still being held at the army's 22nd company headquarters. They had not been charged or mistreated, Ms. Farnsworth said.

The incident came on a day when talk of a negotiated solution to Haiti's 34-month crisis increased in both Washington and Port-Au-Prince.

Influential U.S. Republican Senate leader Bob Dole responded favourably to a proposal by Haitian Senator Bernard Sansaricq that both ruling military leader Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras and overthrown President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resign at the same time in order to give Haiti a "new chance."

Gen. Sansaricq, the staunchly anti-Aristide leader of Haiti's illegal Senate bloc, told ABC television's Nightline programme Wednesday that Gen. Cedras may step down as early as October but no later than Jan. 31 and that the Senate would talk to him about speeding his departure.

"He has talked to me about it and he has told me he's not going to seek another term as commander-in-chief of the Haitian Armed Forces," Gen. Sansaricq said.

Gen. Dole, the Republican leader in the U.S. Senate, which unanimously passed a non-binding resolution Wednesday asking President Clinton to seek congressional approval for any invasion of Haiti, said the plan "might make sense."

There was no immediate comment from the White House but the U.S. spokesman in Haiti, Stanley Schrag, dismissed the statement Thursday, saying Gen. Cedras has already reneged on one internationally-brokered agreement that called for his departure.

Malaysia bans messianic Islamic sect

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia Friday outlawed a radical Islamic sect that has grown rich and powerful while arousing security concerns around South East Asia.

Al Arqam, a mystical Sufi sect that believes an Islamic messiah is coming soon before a prophesied doomsday, can no longer run its many businesses and schools or spread its teachings, Malaysia's National Fatwa Council Chairman Ahmad Tajuddin Abdul Rahman told a news conference.

The government and religious leaders will use a battery of laws against the sect.

The ban makes it illegal for Malaysia's Muslims, about half the population of 19 million, to own, print or sell any of the group's literature, films, audio cassettes, posters, advertisements and other materials.

Under the decree, binding only on Muslims, Al Arqam will have to shut down its more than 200 schools in Malaysia. Its businesses can no longer carry the sect's logo. Al Arqam claims assets of more than 300 million ringgit (\$115 million).

"They can't stop us from holding classes in our homes or under a tree. They can't stop us from reciting the Koran," an Al Arqam spokesman said.

A lawyer for the group filed a defamation suit Friday against the director of the Islamic Centre, the government's division of Islamic affairs.

The suit in part alleges that the Islamic Centre falsely accused the group of maintaining an army in Thailand. The spokesman said Al Arqam would probably file another suit soon challenging the legality of the ban.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad told reporters Friday that the group was actually planning to use force but had never started an army.

"They did advocate some form of military action. They didn't actually get down to setting up this army of theirs but they have a pamphlet which said that at some stage we need some kind of force to achieve our target. That is what we are referring to," Mr. Mahathir told reporters.

Mr. Mahathir said that while he did not view Al Arqam as a political threat, he opposed their teaching of a deviant version of Islam.

"We are not afraid of them as it is made out but it is important that people especially children do not grow up with that kind of understanding of Islam," he added.

Malaysia began a public campaign against the sect two months ago, saying it was training several hundred suicide warriors in Bangkok. Thailand has denied the claim.

The National Fatwa Council, a group of Islamic scholars appointed by the king, listed a dozen reasons why the group should be banned.



Newman for Malaysia's controversial Al Arqam messianic Islamic sect rest against a no-parking sign outside the Kuala Lumpur High Court (AFP photo)

IRA close to announcing ceasefire, experts say

BELFAST (R) — The guerrilla Irish Republican Army (IRA) may be on the verge of announcing a ceasefire in its war to push Britain from Northern Ireland, government and Republican sources said Friday.

The IRA's political wing Sinn Fein has been sending ever-stronger messages about a truce over the past week, the latest Wednesday from its president, Gerry Adams, saying he had "guarded optimism" about possibilities for peace.

The IRA has also been issuing vague messages interpreted as hints about a ceasefire.

It is now 25 years since Britain ordered troops onto the streets of Northern Ireland to combat an upsurge of sectarian violence, pitting extremists from Catholic Nationalist and Protestant Loyalist communities.

"It is understood that senior IRA members believe conditions are almost right for a cessation of violence which would have to be long enough to permit political movement," Belfast's Irish News Nationalist newspaper reported Friday.

"It is time for the IRA to deliver," it added in a commentary, saying to raise false hopes would be a "crime".

Both the British and Irish governments have stressed repeatedly that a temporary IRA ceasefire would not be enough.

Sinn Fein last month virtually rejected the so-called Downing Street Declaration, in which the British and Irish governments offered Sinn Fein a place at negotiations with them and the main Northern Ireland political parties.

In return, the IRA would have to lay down arms permanently, Sinn Fein says all

sides have to declare a ceasefire first.

An Irish government spokesman said the answer to that was clear: "Don't even think about a temporary ceasefire. That will not get them to the table. They should go for it," he said.

"They can put pressure on everyone else by putting their cards on the table and saying 'it's over'."

Sinn Fein and the British and Irish government sources all say contacts are happening at some level between them, but will not say at what level.

"Since the peace process was announced there has been protracted conversation between the Sinn Fein and the British government," Gerry Adams told a debate in Dublin last week.

The last IRA ceasefire, in April, lasted three days. Before that it had not declared a ceasefire since 1975.

Sinn Fein had hinted that the April ceasefire would be lengthened if Britain used it to make contact and answer questions about the Downing Street declaration.

Britain refused, sticking to its demands for a permanent end to violence, and the ceasefire expired.

Protestant extremist guerrilla groups say they would lay down their arms if the IRA did.

"We would welcome the opportunity," a spokesman for the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, which is committed to keeping Northern Ireland British, told Reuters.

Just a month ago Mr. Adams was completely dismissing any possibility of a ceasefire. "Present intense speculation about the possibility of an IRA ceasefire in this climate is unhelpful and wholly misinformed," he said on July 6.

Lawmakers attack White House Whitewater actions

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Former presidential counsel Bernard Nussbaum was harshly rebuked by Senators probing the Whitewater affair for meddling with a top official's effort to remove himself from the investigation.

"I think you have crossed the line," Senator Donald Riegle told Mr. Nussbaum, who resigned his White House post early on this year amid criticism for his handling of Whitewater.

Mr. Nussbaum on Feb. 2 questioned Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman's decision to rescue himself from the investigation into the failed Arkansas Whitewater land development and Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, and their links to President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary.

Mr. Altman has been a close friend of President Clinton since their college years.

A special counsel is trying to determine if Whitewater funds, which included investments by the Clintons, were diverted to Madison, and if Madison money was channelled to Clinton's campaign coffers when he was Governor of Arkansas.

The Senate Banking Committee hearings focus on the role White House personnel, including Mr. Altman, played in asking the Justice Department about the investigations of Madison, which was headed by a friend and business associate of the Clintons.

The Clintons have denied any wrongdoing and no charges have been brought against them. Independent investigators have concluded White House personnel committed no wrongdoing.

"I did not urge Robert Altman to stay in the case. I asked him to consider whether he had a legal obligation to do so. A public official has a duty to do his or her duty," Mr. Nussbaum told Sen. Riegle, a Democrat member of the Senate Banking Committee.

Mr. Altman decided to stay on after Mr. Nussbaum spoke on him, but rescued himself from the investigation three weeks later. Mr. Nussbaum said Mr. Altman's decision was his alone to make.

"I think you had no right whatsoever to inject yourself in any way, shape or form... I think he (Altman) felt the pressure and I think he responded to that pressure," Sen. Riegle told Mr. Nussbaum.

The heated exchange came in the 14th hour of the hearing, in which legislators tried to determine whether the White House violated any laws or ethics.

Exchanges with other top administration officials — including Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen and close Clinton adviser George Stephanopoulos — also became testy during hours of grilling.

Jacksons to give toys to Hungarian kids

BUDAPEST (R) — Michael Jackson and his wife Lisa Marie Presley Jackson will distribute toys to sick children in a Hungarian hospital Saturday, the pop star's spokesman Lee Solters said Friday. The 35-year-old singer will arrive in Hungary Friday to shoot a video that will feature him as a freedom fighter helping to liberate Eastern Europe from Soviet occupation, Mr. Solters told Reuters. The Jacksons are expected to leave Hungary Sunday. It will be the Jacksons' first trip abroad together since Monday, when Presley revealed that they had married secretly in the Dominican Republic several months before, Mr. Solters said. Presley, who has two children from her first marriage, is the daughter of rock legend Elvis Presley. Jackson and Presley will distribute the toys on behalf of Jackson's Heal the Children Foundation.

Vietnam captures 2nd new deer species

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnamese forestry officials are caring for a second deer belonging to a newly discovered species that despite its small size and drab markings is being hailed as one of the zoological finds of the century. The infant "Vu Quang Ox", which looks much like a small deer, was found in a national forest southwest of Hanoi is only the second live specimen located by biologists, the Vietnam News Agency reported. The two-year-old female pseudoryx nghienensis is being looked after in Hai Tinh province. The first Vu Quang Ox in captivity which was saved from the hands of animal traffickers in May and now resides amid much attention in a biological park in Hanoi. Experts from London Zoo are helping to look after the animal, one of the few new mammal species to be discovered this century, and have worked out a special diet of more than 60 different plants. With a brown coat with white markings on its elongated head, short horns and a dark brown strip down its back, the ox is not much to look at but zoologists are "paying great attention to its welfare" and the first ox has already gained several kilograms in captivity, the news agency said.

2 men make off with \$5.4m at bank's parking

TOKYO (AP) — In Japan's biggest robbery ever involving a bank, two men seized \$41 million yen (\$5.4 million) Friday from bank employees in a busy area of the western city of Kobe. The midday heist was top news in relatively crime-free Japan. According to police, the men struck as three bank employees were transporting the cash in three metal cases from a Fukutoku Bank branch to a van for transport. One of the robbers brandished a pistol at the employees and forced them into the van. The robbers then seized the cases and drove off in their own van. The previous record for a robbery involving a bank was set on Nov. 25, 1986, when three men attacked a cash delivery vehicle in Tokyo and stole \$33 million yen (\$3.3 million) worth of cash and checks. The National Police Agency said. A police spokesman in Kobe, speaking on condition of anonymity, said both robbers wore identical gray work uniforms but one wore sunglasses and the other had a white bandage on his face. The robbers' vehicle was later found on a road about 2 kilometres (1 1/4 miles) from the bank branch.

Prolific vicar writes his way into record books

LONDON (R) — A British vicar Friday wrote himself into the Guinness Book of Records by pounding out 16,000 words non-stop — and he was still going strong without any sign of writer's cramp. Lionel Fanthorpe, 59, broke the record on his computer after almost 24 hours of non-stop creation at a library in the Welsh city of Cardiff. The title of his Magnum Opus was suitably ecclesiastical: Thoughts And Prayers On Favourite Biblical Texts. Library Manager Richard Phillips, sitting alongside the prolific author who has already written more than 200 books, said: "He is really getting into his stride. There's still no sign of him getting writer's cramp."

Crash kills 47; casts pall over Russian aviation

MOSCOW (R) — Forty-seven people were killed Friday in Russia's third major air disaster this year, casting a further pall over the country's troubled aviation industry.

The Defence Ministry said an Antonov-12, a huge military transport similar to the U.S. Hercules C-130, crashed on coming into land at an airfield in Siberia, near the Chinese border.

The 39 military personnel, two relatives of officers, and six crew on board were all killed, a ministry spokesman said.

The cause of the crash was not yet known, but the Anto-

nov came down 4.5 kilometres short of the runway. Torrential rain was hampering the investigation.

The disaster was a further blow to Russian aviation, which has already been shaken by the economic and political upheavals of recent years and the breakup of the Soviet-era monopoly Aeroflot.

ITAR-TASS news agency said 270 people had been killed in air crashes in Russia this year and that the accident rate was significantly higher than in other countries.

Two other crashes this year, of civilian airliners,

brought warnings from a Western air travel association and the U.S. government against flying over Russia.

On Jan. 3 more than 120 people died when a Tupolev-154 belonging to a domestic airline plunged into farmland near Irkutsk in central Siberia.

On March 23 an Airbus A-310, on a flight from Moscow to Hong Kong, crashed into a wooded hillside near Novokuznetsk in western Siberia, killing 70 people.

Preliminary investigations have indicated the pilot ignored a warning in the first case and in the second the crew had let children into the cockpit.

Russian Transport Minister Yevgeny Yefimov conceded in April that air safety had become "very weak". He announced new controls to be funded by two per cent of airline revenues.

The U.S.-based International Airline Passengers Association warned its members in April not to fly in or over the former Soviet Union, citing "overloaded airplanes, lack of cockpit discipline, pilot error, ageing aircraft."

The U.S. embassy in Moscow said last month that air travel in Russia was "unreliable".

India's Congress faces split over scandal row

NEW DELHI (R) — India's ruling Congress Party, reeling under an opposition campaign over the nation's worst financial scandal, is also facing an internal revolt on the issue, politicians said Friday.

They said Congress deputies, regarded as "Sonia loyalists" because of their closeness to Rajiv Gandhi's Italian-born widow, had launched a blistering attack against Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's handling of the \$1.28 billion scandal.

"There's a fracture," said senior politician Jaswant Singh, lower house deputy for Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

"How serious it is will depend on how much strain is put on the fracture," Mr. Singh told Reuters.

Some Congress deputies close to the family of Rajiv Gandhi, the head of a political dynasty who was assassinated in 1991, have openly criticised Mr. Rao's handling of a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation into the 1992 scandal.

"The more dangerous ones are engaged in a whisper campaign," said Sharad Yadav, deputy of the centre-left Janata Dal Party.

Mr. Rao's critics accuse him of rejecting the all-party JPC's findings to shield senior colleagues, including Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, from criticism. The scandal involved brokers and bankers diverting funds from the market in government securities to the Bombay Stock Exchange.

The issue has helped unite India's fractious opposition, which first paralysed parliament then boycotted it over its demands for the withdrawal of the "Action Taken Report" containing the government's response to the JPC probe.

mohan Singh of harming the party by his approach to the scandal probe, deputies said. They said the finance minister had gone to the extent of threatening to resign following Mr. Ahluwalia's criticism, but was later pacified by Mr. Rao.

Junior Interior Minister of State Rajesh Pilot, another Rajiv loyalist, had earlier proposed the resignation of all the seven ministers criticised in the JPC. But this was apparently rejected by Mr. Rao, deputies said.

Analysts say the showdown with the opposition and the chances of an open revolt within Congress could force Mr. Rao to hold early polls.

"By holding early polls he could take the steam out of the Sonia threat," Communist lawmaker Saifuddin Chowdhury said. "If this issue lingers on, she'll become stronger and might then demand a share in power."

The Times of India said Mr. Rao may have deliberately engineered the crisis to prepare for early polls, calculating it could put the opposition in a quandary.

"It is possible that the entire opposition may be walking into the trap so skillfully laid out for them by the astute Mr. Rao," the Times said, adding that November-December polls would be ideal for a Congress victory.

"The economy will be at its best, with prices tending to fall thanks to excellent rains, and the industrial sector registering better growth rate, signs of which are already visible," the Times said.

The reclusive Sonia Gandhi rarely takes part in Congress meetings. But she is regarded within the party and by the opposition as a powerful threat to Mr. Rao's leadership.

A Congress spokesman declined to comment on the claim made by Jaswant Singh and other opposition deputies.

Keating: British monarchy is no longer respected

MELBOURNE (R) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, campaigning to dump the British monarch as Australia's head of state, said Friday that Queen Elizabeth and her family no longer commanded the respect and affection of Australians.

Mr. Keating said the British royal family had been a significant element in Australia's sense of national cohesion up to and during the 1950s.

"Our head of state then commanded our respect, affection and loyalty," Mr. Keating said in a lecture to a Melbourne University.

"But there is no denying

that the British monarchy no longer commands that respect, affection and loyalty," he said.

Mr. Keating and his Labour government launched a campaign to turn Australia into a republic with an Australian head of state last year and he hopes a referendum to change the constitution can be held before year 2000.

Mr. Keating, dubbed the Lizard of Oz by a hostile British press, incensed monarchists when he put his arm around Queen Elizabeth during her last visit to Australia in 1992. Also during the visit, his wife refused to curtsy to the queen.

Key suspect held in Bombay blasts; Pakistani involvement alleged

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India announced the arrest Friday of a key suspect in the March 1993 Bombay bombings and claimed to have "irrefutable" proof of Pakistani involvement in the blasts which killed 317 people.

Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan said in parliament that documents seized from Yakub Abdul Razak Memon also showed that Bombay organised crime chief, Dawood Ibrahim, alleged mastermind behind the bombings, was now in Pakistan.

Indian security agencies have secured "irrefutable proof" of Pakistan's complicity in the serial bombings, the world's worst urban terrorist attack, after arresting Mr. Chavan here Friday, Mr. Chavan said.

"The government now has direct evidence of Pakistani involvement in (the) Bombay blasts," he said, adding that India would renew efforts at international forums to have Pakistan declared a "terrorist state."

"Now at least it should be

clear to the world at large how Pakistan has been making concerted efforts to create terror and destabilisation in our country," the minister said.

The documents seized from Mr. Memon included Pakistani passports and other identification papers of the suspect and his family members," Mr. Chavan said.

Mr. Memon, a Bombay gangster, was whisked away to a military interrogation centre here for questioning. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sources said.

The home minister described Mr. Memon's arrest as a "major breakthrough" in the investigation into the March 12, 1993 blasts which left 317 people dead and some 1,000 injured in Bombay, India's commercial capital.

"The success of the security agencies in making this important breakthrough deserves the appreciation in the matter," Mr. Chavan told jubilant MPs from Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's ruling Congress (I) Party.

The home minister said in-

tial interrogation of Mr. Memon had led federal detectives to the conclusion that Ibrahim, who is alleged to control a vast criminal empire in Bombay from a safe haven in the Gulf, was now in Pakistan.

Mr. Chavan also said the CBI would seize all Ibrahim's Indian property and that New Delhi had earlier initiated measures to extradite him from the United Arab Emirates.

Pakistan Friday rejected Indian allegations of involvement in the Bombay bombings last year, blaming New Delhi for hiding connections between Indian politicians and organised crime.

A foreign office spokesman here told AFP that the latest Indian statement was "merely a recycling of the rejected and worn-out accusations against Pakistan."

The "Indian design to malign Pakistan is to hide the connection between prominent Indian politicians and criminal mafia operating in major cities like Bombay," he said.

Jordan Times

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Breaking the logjam

IT IS becoming clearer by the day that real progress on the Syrian-Israeli peace track hinges on Israeli commitment to withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has been suggesting that Syrian President Hafez Assad take an initiative that would mellow down Israeli public opinion in favour of complete peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal from the Heights. Since Syria is the disadvantaged party it is up to Israel to make the first move. If Mr. Rabin has difficulties with his own constituency with regard to withdrawal from the Heights, it remains his own and not the Syrians'. It can be appreciated, however, that Israeli public opinion needs to be cultivated in favour of just peace with Damascus. There is no doubt that Syria knows this and fully appreciates the public sentiment factor in the Israeli body politic and has been sending signals to this effect. The Syrian leadership comprehends that the Labour Party in Israel is facing stiff opposition from the right wing parties and the settler movement over Labour's willingness to strike a complete peace deal with Syria. The Israeli people have over the years become accustomed to believing that the Golan Heights were very essential to their security. This fallacy has been propagated by both Israeli left and right. Now that the Labour leadership has found itself trapped by its own false claims, what is needed perhaps is mutual steps by both sides, Israel and Syria, and not one taken by Syria alone as Mr. Rabin proposes.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will be visiting the area once again this week in another bid to breaking the logjam on the Syrian-Israeli front. Should he succeed in convincing both parties to simultaneous declarations pledging full Israeli withdrawal in return for a complete peace treaty with Syria, he would probably assure progress on that track. No one knows for sure what Mr. Christopher has up his sleeves this time. Yet one thing is sure: Without a clear Israeli commitment to full withdrawal from the Heights, the Syrian side could not be expected to nudge on its negotiation track with Israel. The success on the Palestinian and Jordanian fronts must have its effect on the Syrians. However, Washington knows quite well the Syrian psychology on peace in the Middle East. If advancement is to be expected on that track, Mr. Rabin has got to make the first move and take his risk with his people. Once that giant step is taken, Mr. Rabin can count on Syria making sufficient follow-up moves to vindicate his gamble for peace in the region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN THE view of a guest columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, the state of peace between Israel and the Arab states has ended and a state of war has started. Despite the three wars that erupted in the past 46 years the Arabs and Israel were able to reach a state of peace or a truce which has now ended. The writer, a former health minister, said that it is regrettable to say that through the past years the Arab states that are now entering the battle with Israel have failed to prepare themselves for it, rendering the Arab Nation in a weak situation, unable to play any winning cards. The writer said that the Arabs will face major challenges represented first by the coming 21st century with all that entails of expectations and hidden requirements and surprises, second by the Israeli goods which are bound to compete strongly with Arab products and thirdly by the nature of the negotiations with the Israelis, which the writer said would be complicated and could carry much frustration for the Arabs.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour called on the government to seek Parliament's approval of the Washington Declaration and pave the way for constructive dialogue that would safeguard the nation's democratic rule and interests. Taher Aowan said that the government and Parliament are bound to discuss this issue and it is better for them to do that as early as possible so that many of the misgivings can be removed and democracy can take its course in a sound manner. The writer said that the government should prepare the country for the coming stage of peace with Israel and involve the public in a serious discussion of the responsibilities before the nation. If the Israelis had the courage to convene a special parliament session and voice their views on this matter, it is more likely that the Jordanians to follow the example since this is a question of destiny and of serious concern to the public, said the writer. The present set up in parliament, added the writer, can ensure an easy victory for the government's views in this affair and therefore the sooner a debate of his question takes place, the better for the whole country.

Jordanian Perspective

Democracy at work

By Dr. Musa Kellani

THE MOST significant event on the internal political front after the issuance of the Washington Declaration on July 25 was the reaffirmation by the Islamic movement that while it might not like the Arab-Israeli peace process and is committed to opposing the peace moves, it would confine itself to the Jordanian Constitution and democratic means to express its stand.

The reaffirmation came during a meeting that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan held with several Lower House of Parliament members representing the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and independent deputies at the Royal Palace.

As those who attended the meeting affirm, it was an open and straightforward dialogue where the IAF deputies, exercising their democratic right, clearly stated their rejection of the peace process and complained of what they saw as a government crackdown on opposition. They were particularly peeved by the questioning by state prosecutors of five or six IAF deputies over charges that their Friday sermons harmed national security and slandered the Armed Forces. The IAF version was that excerpts from the sermons were "taken out of context and misinterpreted." However, there cannot be any denial of the fact not all of them were treated that way since we've had enough experience of preachers getting carried away while on the pulpit and indulging in open political debate and rhetoric from the House of God. But then it is not a useful exercise for anyone of us to engage in a point-by-point debate of what the deputies/preachers say during Friday prayers and what they mean since we would not be able to reach anywhere. It is the realm of the law enforcement agencies to decide whether the preachers broke the code of conduct and went too far pushing their anti-peace process campaign.

Particularly emphasised during the meeting was that it will not be accepted to see mosques being turned into political forums and Friday sermons turned into opportunities for one or another political party to address constituents.

On the broader front of our democracy, the fact also remains that other political parties are upset that it is unfair that they do not have such an advantage of getting into contacts with large gatherings of constituents such as Friday prayers.

The net image that many Jordanians got from the Crown

Prince's audience with the Islamists, which was also attended by three key Cabinet ministers, was clear: The Crown Prince, by engaging opposition in a constructive and positive dialogue, secured a clear reaffirmation of the Islamists' commitment to the values that preserve the fabric of the Jordanian society and the fundamental principles that could not be and should not be violated no matter what.

The meeting at the Royal Palace had its ups and downs, and it was clear that there was a distinct difference in viewpoints of the two sides to the dialogue as far as the peace process was concerned. But what was established beyond any reasonable doubt was that the Islamic Action Front remained committed to the constitutional means available to it to express its positions and would not undertake any action that would undermine security or indulge in inciting political rhetoric in mosques. What was more interesting was that the IAF deputies held a wider meeting with their colleagues and supporters after the Royal Palace encounter and decided on ways and means to ensure that the pledges they undertook during the audience with the Crown Prince are honoured.

Also reviewed during the IAF meeting were headlines calls for a "mass resignation" of the 16 Islamist deputies in Parliament on grounds that the group would not want to be part of a legislature that endorses peace with Israel. But the moderate line prevailed and it was decided that such a course of action could be considered only if "all other democratic means of opposition" were exhausted.

Overall, the net practical outcome of the dialogue was very comforting and bodes well for Jordan's national security and stability and in line with the democracy that we all enjoy. After all, no matter how one puts it, the Islamists are a core component of our society and have grassroots support. Their positions carry weight.

However, there are a few pitfalls that all sides of the political spectrum should understand and appreciate. The Islamists believe that there is a "third school" of thinking in Jordan seeking to benefit from a confrontation between the country's leadership and the Islamists.

We all saw the television footage of the audience and the dialogue. But someone, somewhere was overenthusiastic and decided that not all the comments made by the IAF deputies were for the public ears. The result was a badly edited patch-up of the meeting that was actually aired. IAF deputies say that if the total footage of the meeting was

broadcast without editing and patch-up, the idea that the Islamists are totally committed to protecting national security and resorting to democratic means to express their views would not have needed any reaffirmation.

As such, they argue, if the television footage, wittingly or unwittingly, left any ambiguity over the Islamist position, then the beneficiary was the "third school" — which, according to IAF thinking, not only includes centrist politicians who want to make political capital at the expense of Islamists but also extremist elements seeking means to undermine security and stability in the name of Islam.

The Islamists have a very clear perception of their objectives and strategies, and, as far as personal discussions with their leaders away from the media limelight indicate, these remain very much within the confines of the Jordanian social and political fabric as it existed since the establishment of the Kingdom more than 70 years ago.

It will be no exaggeration to say that the Islamic Action Front is one of the few political parties in the Kingdom which knows what it is doing. There is a commitment to the principles and beliefs — a rarity in some of the political parties that have sprung up in the last 20 months.

We have to see Jordan's Islamists distinctly separate from similar parties or groups elsewhere in the Arab World. Here in this country they have managed to come forward and consolidate political ground through the ballot box. They are not exactly very anxious to abandon the box. They are not exactly very eager to embrace hard-core political gains and legislative clout and embrace rhetoric-based actions that would be easily counted upon to political future. Their help could be easily counted upon to counter groups that draw their ideologies from their own, albeit mislaid, interpretations of Islam and Islamic teachings and engage in actions that are detrimental to national security and stability as well as our democracy.

Notwithstanding whether one agrees with its political ideologies and religious approach to political issues, the presence of such a vibrant political group as the Islamic Action Front among us should be a source of pride and admiration for us, grudging as those sentiments might be for some of us.

Over and beyond everything else, it proves to the world that what we have here is not the mysterious 99.99 per cent support phenomenon that are so typical of the regimes in our region.



Back to Baghdad dealmakers gear up

By Caryle Murphy

BAGHDAD — This isolated city has not heard so many foreign accents in a long time.

Four dozen Frenchmen led the way, streaming into Baghdad in two separate delegations peppered with corporate honchos, Japanese, Italian and Spanish businessmen also showed up in the past month or so, as did a German parliamentary delegation, a Pakistani aviation official and a Chinese deputy foreign minister.

The visits, along with an increasing number of trips abroad by senior Iraqi officials, are the most illustrious demonstration of the waning international will to maintain United Nations trade sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait nearly four years ago.

Most of those who arrived came to "prosper" as a Frenchman put it, for deals once sanctions are lifted.

Even the U.S. interests section in Baghdad, run by the Polish embassy, is fielding calls from Americans inquiring about the risks of visiting here.

"They say: 'We got this

invitation to visit from the Iraqi government," a source said, "and the first question they ask is: 'Will they kill us if we come?'"

The company officials are informed that the Iraqis will not kill them; but that the U.S. government may prosecute them since travel to Iraq on U.S. passports is restricted. Some U.S. companies are said to be getting around this by having Iraqi visas stamped on pieces of paper, meeting Iraqi officials in Jordan or sending non-U.S. employees to Baghdad.

Diplomats here and U.N. officials say they expect no significant changes in the sanction regime and predict the ban on Iraqi oil sales will continue until at least early next year.

Still, the international mood appears to have shifted to one of anticipation that the sanctions are nearing an end. "There is no doubt that there is a trend in favour of Iraq" said a senior diplomat here from a country that fought as part of the U.S.-led allied force against Iraq in 1991 Gulf war.

"It's bound to lead to some relaxation or a kind of infor-

mal infringement of sanctions," he said. "It's an erosion, because sanctions are affecting other people."

That "erosion" first broke into the open during a sanctions review in March when such countries as France, China and Russia wanted a public statement recognising what Iraq had done to comply with U.N. demands. The United States blocked such a statement.

Since then, the waning of support for sanctions has been apparent in other ways. Turkey negotiated a deal with Baghdad to repair their joint oil pipeline, which has been closed since August 1990. The project, which will be the first legal sale of Iraqi oil in almost four years, is expected to be approved by the Security Council this month if remaining problems are worked out, Iraqi and other sources here said.

In another development, Pakistan has asked the Security Council's sanctions committee for permission to operate a weekly flight to Baghdad to ferry its Muslim pilgrims to Iraqi holy places. So far, the United Nations has not responded, a di-

plomatic source here said. Russia has asked to be allowed to restart work on a power plant that was being built when sanctions were imposed. That request was denied.

Diplomats and other Western observers here said financial and strategic factors, more than the sufferings of the Iraqi people, had led to diminished support for sanctions.

Helping Iraq rebuild will mean huge contracts for international companies. In addition, Iraq cannot begin repaying its prewar foreign debt of some \$70 billion, or claims for compensation arising from the war, until it can again sell oil.

Others argue it is time to admit that the "hidden agenda" of the sanctions has failed.

"If you look underneath at what was the real purpose of the sanctions, it was to get rid of Saddam Hussein and then, from one moment to another, Iraq will become a democracy," said a senior diplomat here whose country also supported the U.S.-led coalition.

International Herald Tri-

Aid workers under threat in Bosnia

By Harriet Martin
Reuters

ZENICA, Bosnia — The Muslim-Croat Federation may be slowly turning central Bosnia from a land of war into a place of peace, but foreign aid workers are still leading dangerous lives, international relief sources say.

According to one aid official, it is only a matter of time before another incident like that in which a British aid worker was murdered in January takes place.

Paul Goodall, a 35-year-old driver for the British Overseas Development Administration, was killed by gunmen on a river bank just outside the town of Zenica on January 27.

In March, Muslims and Croats ended a year of bitter war in central Bosnia and agreed to form a federation, but among the fighters a legacy of resentment and lawlessness remains.

Armed incidents against international staff are still common. In the last month there has been a hijacking at gunpoint, two armed break-ins and a spate of armed threats.

On June 13 four staff of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) were forced at gunpoint to lie face down in the mud after two armed men, one in military uniform, flagged them down, dragged them out of their white-painted jeep and stole the vehicle.

The incident took place 500 metres short of a United Nations checkpoint between Kiseljak and Visoko, some 40 km west of Sarajevo.

This was the sixth vehicle that the IRC, which runs the largest non-government aid programme in central Bosnia, had hijacked since January 1993.

Todd Cleaver, head of the IRC office in Zenica said: "You might expect after six hijackings to have someone killed. All I can say is we've been very lucky, nothing else."

Four of the stolen IRC vehicles were recovered. In the latest incident the local civilian police traced the vehicle and returned it, with nothing stolen, within two hours.

Now the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the leading agency in the region, advises aid workers travelling through the Croat-controlled Kiseljak region to go in pairs of vehicles or with a local police escort.

Mark Cutts, acting head of the UNHCR's Zenica office said: "We are trying to avoid any non-essential

government through the Kiseljak pocket or travelling in a single vehicle after dark."

The night before the IRC hijacking, two international staff from Medicus Sans Frontiers Holland (MSF-H) had their house broken into by a young man with a machine-gun.

He escaped with cash, radio equipment and compact discs. During a 40-minute ordeal the gunman directly threatening Paul Caney, MSF-H's logistics officer.

"I was awakened by a crash in the kitchen. When I went downstairs he confronted me, cocking his weapon to let me know he was serious. He came upstairs, he kept jabbing me in the chest with his gun, forcing me from room to room, demanding money."

Mr. Caney said. MSF Holland was the only non-governmental organisation living in the Kiseljak area, which has an increasing reputation for Croat extremism after the vast majority of the Muslim population fled in the Croat-Muslim war.

Josip Maric, chief of the Kiseljak civil police, said: "We're doing everything we can to protect international staff. It's not right to draw some conclusions about Kiseljak from these incidents. Everywhere in the world such things are happening."

Three weeks after the first incident, the MSF-H base was broken into again, prompting the staff to move to the U.N. base in Kiseljak.

But break-ins at the homes of international aid staff are not uncommon in Zenica, and several organisations now employ armed guards to protect their houses at night.

There have also been increasing numbers of incidents involving foreign Islamic extremists, known locally as "the muj" (mujahideen), in the Zenica area.

In May, one international aid worker looking for accommodation in an area where many mujahideen live, was asked by one of them if he was a Muslim.

When he said no, the man warned him not to move there, indicating by passing his finger across his throat that he would be killed if he did.

In June, a British U.N. driver had a pistol put to his head by an extremist while he was waiting outside a hotel in Zenica.

"It's not a question of whether something will happen, it's a question of when," the IRC's Cleaver said.

LETTERS

The language of peace

To the Editor:

IT'S SUCH a special chapter in our life as Jordanians when we replace war by peace as a guiding policy for our life.

Why don't we admit that we did badly during the state of war with Israel? This was most expected from a nation whose language was that of a peace and love and not of violence and hatred. The history of the achievements of the Arab Nation reflects this reality. No wonder the Arabs excelled in medicine, art, literature and not in power politics or in war related inventions. A people who were and still good in healing wounds rather than creating them, most probably, will excel in a state of peace than in a state of war.

I do find it difficult to apprehend the attitude of those opposing peace. Are they afraid of accepting a situation where no more the shortcomings can be justified by political excuses? I can easily conclude that opposers of peace have no faith in the Jordanian people. It's quite logical that peace will bring prosperity only when we upgrade our performance to be able to compete. It's true we should have been prepared for this new stage yet, unfortunately we cannot afford to continue in the no-war-no-peace state when our potentials were wasted due to the lack of stability and certainty which impedes the progress of this country. We have both to readjust ourselves to peace and reconsider our economic behaviour to enable us to

compete by moving from being mere consumers towards saving, investing and producing.

We, proponents of peace, are staunch believers that the achievements of Jordan during the difficult times when Jordan became one of the newly industrialised countries producing goods receiving credibility in highly developed countries with only continue with the forthcoming continuous stability which is a fertile soil needed to achieve more progress and development.

The two positive factors of peace and resumption of democracy in Jordan will ensure that all the segments of this society are protected and given equal opportunities to learn and perform when the money dedicated for military expenditures will be directed towards achieving hundred per cent literacy and employment.

Depending on the will and the determination of a united Jordanian society and on the international community to prevent any more aggression through effective collective security, it's beyond any doubts that Jordanians with their natural language of peace will communicate successfully with all Arab neighbours and prove that peaceful coexistence is much more beneficial for this society than the unusual language of war and violence.

Madhine Mameel Mentzagopias,
Amman.

Aqaba to host meeting

(Continued from page 1)

countries. The linkage also will facilitate communication between the two governments.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said the crossing's opening was important as practical implementation of the Washington Declaration and as an expression of "the contact between the two countries."

"Although only tourists will cross for now, we hope that in a short time Israelis and Jordanians will also be able to visit both countries," Mr. Ben-Ami said.

On Thursday, army engineers detonated about 30 mines on the frontier to clear the way for construction of temporary passport and customs terminals.

Engineers have also begun laying the pavement for a road to the new crossing point.

Israeli-Jordanian negotiating teams also are discussing cooperation on transport and aviation.

Meanwhile, the King received more cables of support from Jordanian members of parliament, politicians, union leaders and historians for his moves toward peace with Israel and a just, durable and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The four-member Al

Ikhwa (brotherhood) bloc in Parliament, which groups Tawfiq Kreishan, Nader Al Dheirat, Salem Zawaideh and Ali Al Shatti, sent a cable expressing their full confidence and that of their constituents in King Hussein and supporting his moves to restore Jordan's national rights.

The cable raised to 51 the number of deputies in the 80-seat parliament to express their total support for the King's moves for peace.

The King also received cables of support from the Jordan Popular Unity Party (Unionists) led by Talal Ramahi, the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, and historian Rinal Ayyad Al Khatib, advisor to the Arab Historians Union.

Mr. Khatib's cable said the King's moves "warrant that we, the historians of the Arab Nation, consider the Washington Declaration as a document to be added to your long struggle to advance the status of the Arab Nation."

South Shuneh residents held a ceremony on Thursday in support of the King's efforts. Speakers at the event included Governor Mohammad Al Subeihat, Upper House of Parliament Member Ahmad Al Adwan and representatives of Fuheis, Salt, Karameh and South Shuneh.

Christopher sees new signs

(Continued from page 1)

impasse between the two countries after talks were suspended in February.

Syria, where the U.S. envoy goes on Sunday, wants Israel to pledge complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which it has occupied since 1967, while Israel wants a commitment to total peace.

But under the new formula Syria would not have to agree an immediate exchange of ambassadors and Israel would not have to commit itself initially to a total withdrawal from the heights.

"For the moment these are just general ideas and now we have to fix the stages and that is of course the hardest issue because each side wants to get something for themselves," the Israeli official said.

Israeli Ambassador to the United States Itamar Rabinovich told Israeli Radio Friday there had been "progress in the talks with the Syrians and they will make a decision very soon. They understand

that the geo-political situation has changed."

A state-run Syrian newspaper Friday praised remarks by U.S. President Clinton in which he said he was convinced that Syria wanted an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

"Clinton's statement about President Hafez Al Assad's seriousness about peace confirms Syria's credibility in its drive to achieve actual peace in the region," the daily Al Baath said in an editorial.

Al Baath, the organ of the ruling Baath Party, said Syria's desire for peace should not be understood as weakness on its part.

"Syria will not accept any concession in its firm and legitimate rights or accept occupation of its lands," it wrote. "No one can push Syria to accept what it does not desire."

In a news conference Thursday, Mr. Clinton said he had spoken by telephone recently with Mr. Assad and "I am convinced that he is still very much interested in a comprehensive peace (see page 2).

Arafat: Rabin violating deal

(Continued from page 1)

ish without justification, which prevented him from travelling to the self-rule Jericho area from Gaza.

"In the agreement, Palestinians should have three plus one safe passages between Gaza Strip and Jericho, but Israel has not given us any of these yet," he said. "All of these issues are mentioned in the agreement, and there is no justification for Israel not to carry them out."

Mr. Arafat also repeated the Palestinian demand that it alone control the Arab portions of Jerusalem, objecting to the continuing Jordanian role in controlling the holy sites reaffirmed by Israel and Jordan last month. Palestinians claimed the move was an attempt to dilute their claims to the Holy City.

"Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine, and the Israeli

game will not pass," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat is to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday in Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria, Egyptian and Palestinian officials said Friday.

They will discuss "obstacles which Israel is raising to the implementation" of the May 4 accord on autonomy for Gaza and Jericho, said Zuhdi Qidra, the Palestinian representative in Cairo.

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators have yet to resolve security issues in the Gaza-Jericho accord, including the release of Palestinian prisoners, border crossing-points and the size of the Jericho self-rule enclave.

Mr. Arafat's meeting was to come just hours before Mr. Christopher arrived in Egypt at the start of a new Middle East peace mission. It was unclear if Mr. Arafat would join the Mubarak-Christopher talks.

Hariri calls Israeli raid

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli fighter-bombers in South Lebanon Thursday. The others were against Hizbollah redoubts in the nearby Iqlim Al Tuffah.

Hizbollah, which spearheads a guerrilla war against the Israeli-occupied zone, said its fighters suffered no casualties.

Thursday's raids raised the number of Israeli air attacks on Lebanese targets this year

to 32. By police count, 66 people have been killed and 241 wounded.

Hundreds of Arabs, most of them civilians, have been slain in Israeli air strikes on Lebanon over the last two decades.

Israel said the missile that hit Deir Al Zahrani was fired by mistake during attacks on "terrorist targets" and extended apologies for the losses.

Lawyers named in Abequa case

(Continued from page 1)

The ambassador also said an administrative solution could be possible in the children's custody issue.

"There is a possibility that the custody case could be solved administratively," he said. "There is always the possibility that you reach an agreement between the two parties that could benefit both sides."

Mr. Egan said if Mr. Abe-

qua was to be tried in Jordan, his duty was to provide the Jordanian government with all necessary evidence, adding that he has not received a formal answer from the Jordanian government regarding this issue.

He said that from his discussions with Jordanian officials he felt that the Jordanian government was sincere in resolving the issue of the children and returning them to the United States.



A French legionnaire stands at a Rwandan army barrage near the southwestern town of Gikongoro, the site of a French military camp, to protect Tutsi refugees from Butare, 28 kms west (AFP photo)

French troops in Rwanda — heroes or pawns?

By John Follain
Reuter

PARIS — Will French troops be able to leave Rwanda with heads held high, confident they saved thousands of lives and eased the plight of victims in an unending civil war?

Or will they come home to a barrage of unanswered questions about the motives behind France's humanitarian mission, and about its eagerness to pull out when its United Nations mandate ends on August 22?

Operation Turquoise looks set to end as it began — amid widespread suspicions at home and abroad that it was driven by France's own political interests in Africa.

When the first French soldiers flew out to set up

bases in Zaire on June 23, as the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front was striving to capture the capital Kigali, officials in Paris were surprised at the lack of support from European partners.

Surprise turned into frustration as a string of appeals by French leaders failed to draft more than a few dozen Senegalese soldiers into the 2,500-strong French force.

Defending France's record, a senior official pulled no punches in denouncing the international apathy which endured until only a few days ago after over a million refugees flooded into Goma in Zaire, overwhelming relief agencies.

"I'll put it crudely but we had warned people this would happen and nobody did anything to stop it. We tried to shake the international community into ac-

tion and nothing was done," the official said.

"For our part, we did what we had set out to do. We made an area in southwestern Rwanda safe and we gave people stability in their region."

Humanitarian agencies recognise that France's creation of the safe area saved many lives in a country decimated by massacres which have since April killed an estimated 500,000 people, mostly members of the Tutsi minority.

But France's assurances and the achievements of its forces in the U.N.-backed protection zone, where a million refugees have gathered, have failed to dispel the doubts which explain in part the lukewarm response of its partners.

France, which had some 300 troops in Rwanda for

several years until last year, has been accused both by Belgium, the former colonial power, and by Tutsi rebels of arming and supporting the Hutu-dominated government.

France stirred controversy with its decision to transform its strictly humanitarian role in Rwanda into a defensive action by proclaiming the safe zone.

Its promise to prevent warring factions entering the area was seen by many as a bid — which proved successful — to stop the advance of the rebels.

Critics, including former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, said France was giving up its claim of neutrality as Hutus implicated in killing hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsis were among the refugees coming under

French protection.

And when fugitive ministers of the ousted Hutu government, suspected of complicity in genocide, entered the safe zone, the French hustled them into Zaire — instead of detaining them as the military had at one time been told to do.

"This intervention should have had the aim of neutralising the forces responsible for the genocide," said Rony Brauman, former head of the charity Medecins Sans Frontieres, among the most active of the agencies in Rwanda and Zaire.

"We should have tackled evil head on, rather than tackling the ills which were its result, and pretending to stay neutral in the name of a humanitarian cause," he said.

Overtaken by a relentless

wave of refugees and pressure from abroad, France has been forced to readjust the nature of its intervention — giving less importance to patrolling the area and more to relaying relief aid.

France has also been boxed into extending part of its operation, in neighbouring Zaire, beyond the August 22 deadline set by the U.N. mandate.

Whatever the original objectives of Operation Turquoise, the victory of the rebels was a hard knock for France's African policy, summed up by one observer as "siding with the devil you know."

Paris has rarely seen a government it supports ousted by an enemy in what it considers its Francophone zone of influence.

By Craig Doonan
Reuter

DUREAN — Despite the advent of democracy in South Africa, political violence is claiming lives in the country's Zulu heartland every day and peace workers fear it will take years to subside.

Although not as widespread as before the April elections, which brought Nelson Mandela to power, fighting continues in several flashpoints in the province, notably north of Durban, in rural areas around Port Shepstone, and in black settlements north of the Tugela River.

An average of 80 people have been killed in political unrest in KwaZulu-Natal each month since the elections.

Violence monitors say they fear unrest will continue to plague the province, where 10,000 people have been killed in a decade of political fighting mainly between supporters of President Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party of Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

"We haven't solved the political problem yet," said Port Shepstone Monitor Selvan Chetty.

"There are still a lot of political thugs out there, those who use violence to maintain political support," he told Reuters.

"If they started using the barrel of a gun for support then they'll undoubtedly continue doing so. Unfortunately they haven't grasped the concept of reconciliation," he added.

Police spokesman Major Bala Naidoo concurred: "The problem is that there is a lot of discussion and negotiations on the top but nothing is filtering through."

We had suggestions of joint rallies addressed by leaders but we've only had one or two."

Mr. Chetty says policing



A group of ANC youths, some with home-made guns, get ready to fight Inkatha supporters for a clash that left one Inkatha supporter dead and another wounded (AFP photo)

Violence in Zulu heartland could go on for years

problems including allegations of police complicity and death squads in the violence which has dogged the province for years are a major factor in the unrest.

"Wherever there are allegations of police involvement in political conflict you will find there is continuing violence."

"We need to urgently address this. If there are allegations to this effect they must be properly investigated. The key is an effective impartial police

force, able to maintain law and order."

Both Inkatha and ANC leaders who met in the province last week for the first time, pressed police to find the culprits in the latest killing of eight people in Ndwedwe, near Durban, instead of immediately apportioning blame to each other.

Fifteen people, all with links to Inkatha, were killed there in the attacks in just over a week at the end of July.

The Inkatha Freedom Party's Frank Mdlalose, who is KwaZulu-Natal's premier, and the ANC's Bheki Cele, a provincial MP, stressed that dead-end police investigations were not enough and both called for early arrests.

Provincial peace committee spokesman Nicholas Claude commented this: "It's significant that they aren't pointing fingers and that organisations are calling for calm. But it is worrying that violence is con-

tinuing. There appear to be anti-peace elements who need to be brought to book."

An official of the Network of Independent Monitors, Francis Armitage, says there is hope that violence will be stopped but it will take time.

"I think there's hope but there is a long way to go. The problem is getting warring communities to trust each other, to trust the peace process and to believe in it."

"When peace has been around for a while it's difficult for people to disrupt it. But there is a long process to get to this stage," he said.

Human rights committee researcher Sarah Kearney says political tensions will continue to simmer.

"Even though we've had elections, rivalry and revenge remain. We've got an IFP (regional) government here and ANC people are not pleased," she said.

'Fundamentals do not bode well for the dollar in the long-run'

This report, covering the period from Thursday, July 28, 1994 until Wednesday, Aug. 3, 1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar continues to show strength against the yen and the Deutschmark. Against the yen, the dollar traded over 100 yen most of the week except for a dip on Monday, following the breakdown of U.S.-Japan trade talks. The dollar recovered quickly following assurances from officials of both nations. Against the DM, the dollar continued to trade in the 1.58-1.59 range. We continue to hold that the dollar's bounce is not a sign of fundamental dollar strength, but instead a correction from a heavily over-sold condition.

The dollar also seems to benefit from the market being more sanguine about the U.S. administration's attitude towards the dollar. However, the fundamentals do not bode well for the dollar in the long-run. With few signs of a shrinkage of Japan's huge current account surplus, and capital outflows from Japan down to a trickle, the downward pressure on the dollar will continue. Our forecast of DM/U.S.\$ 1.50 in 6-and-12 months stands.

Technical view: Although the U.S. dollar index resumed its downtrend for the week ended July 29 it managed to end basically flat on the week. This was due in part that the U.S. dollar gained against the Japanese yen, up 1.47%. At the same time, the U.S. dollar lost against the German mark, only 0.42%. For the month, the U.S. dollar index gained 0.48%. Short term momentum measures remain constructive and are viewed as an aiding factor to the slowdown of a deep fallout from current levels.

At the same time, we believe that some more downside testing is probable due to the poor medium term background. Any downside testing, however, would be viewed as positive and part of the bottom building process needed for a better latter part of the year. Medium term momentum measures do remain weak and at present (since we place more emphasis on this oscillator) we are still a bit cautious over the near to medium term. Strong support exists at 84.00-85.00 area. Although the U.S. dollar index has flirted above the 90.90 level over the past week, resistance exists at 92.83-93.58.

Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar took an initial tumble

following the breakdown of U.S.-Japan trade talks. From last Friday's high of yen/U.S.\$ 100.10, the dollar traded as low as 98.40 yen in Tokyo on Monday. This followed the announcement on Sunday, that the U.S. would commence a 60-day investigation into allegations of unfair Japanese government procurement practices, a move that could lead to the imposition of formal sanctions. Trade talks broke down after both countries representatives conceded that they were unable to bridge differences over Japanese government's perceived exclusion of foreign purveyors of medical and telecommunications equipment. The dollar managed to recover some ground, gaining more than one yen from its Tokyo trading lows. By Wednesday, the dollar was again trading over 100 yen.

The dollar's tumble following the breakdown of this round of talks was minor compared to the 5% plunge the dollar took when trade talks collapsed in February. The market's more moderate reaction this time could be attributed to many factors:

A) Officials from both nations tried to calm a nervous market by public avowals that talks would continue during the 60-day investigation period. In addition, U.S. officials put up an effective spin control, reiterating the U.S. administration's desire for a "strong" and "stable" dollar, and that the U.S. was not seeking a strong yen as a trade tool;

B) The market seems to appreciate that even if trade talks succeed, its overall macroeconomic impact would be marginal. This is because the agreement would account for \$1 billion, out of a U.S.-Japan trade imbalance of \$60 billion.

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell for two consecutive weeks versus the U.S. dollar. For the week ended July 29, the Japanese yen lost 1.47%. At present, consensus is building that a top is forming on the Japanese yen. While that may be true it is probably a few months away. At present, sentiment remains only neutral to deteriorating. At the same time, short term momentum oscillators are still negative...indicating that some more yen weakness in here is probable but most likely short lived. This is due in part that medium term momentum oscillators are improving, suggesting that yen highs are still in possible before a top is firmly in place.

As a result, we would not be surprised to see a correction back to at least the 100.40-101.40 yen/U.S.\$ area, and perhaps beyond. Benchmark support remains at 106.112. Resistance exists near 97.20, then below 93.

Deutschmark

Fundamental view: The dollar traded during the week between 1.58-1.59 marks. While the dollar continues to show strength against the DM as part of the corrective process, it could not break through the psychologically important 1.60 DM level. U.S.-Germany real interest rate differentials and growth rate differentials are key in explaining the U.S.-Deutschmark exchange rate. The real interest rate differentials are beginning to move in favour of the DM. The growth differential that was in favour of the U.S. is beginning to narrow. These point to increasing DM strength in the long run.

The DM should also benefit from the increasing political support for Chancellor Kohl's reelection, and the market expressing more confidence in the Bundesbank's resolve to combat inflation. While our forecast is for the dollar to trend down against the DM to the 1.50 DM level in 12 months, the market could be erratic over the next few months.

Technical view: The Deutschmark gained 0.42% against the U.S. dollar for the week ended July 29. For the month, the Deutschmark's strength against the greenback slowed down as it gained only 0.17%. At this juncture it seems as though some topping process is forming on the Deutschmark. This is evident with the fact that short and medium term momentum measures are working off an overbought condition. As a result, we would not be surprised to see further Deutschmark weakness through 1.60 DM/U.S.\$ and then allow for 1.616. However, a test of the recent highs of 1.52 (early July) may still be needed before a true top is in place. Strong resistance exists at 1.48-1.52.

Pound sterling

Fundamental view:

The British pound modestly rallied against the U.S. dollar during the week rising to U.S.\$/GBP 1.54, up from last week's low of U.S.\$/GBP 1.52. With the DM down against the dollar, the pound traded higher against the DM, at DM/GBP 2.43. The pound's gains against the DM were fuelled by expectations in the markets of an early rise in U.K. base rates.

However, while the market expectations of a rise in base rates did not materialise on Aug. 1, we continue to expect a 50 basis point hike in U.K. base rates in the fourth quarter.

This combined with the 50 basis point cut in the German discount rate expected after the October election should move the U.K.-German interest rate differential in favour of the pound. The U.K. also posted some impressive

numbers on the fundamentals, with GDP growth outpacing inflation, a rare occurrence in the last three decades.

With the DM expected to strengthen against the U.S.\$, and the pound strengthen against the DM, we expect the pound will appreciate to 1.50 U.S.\$ in six to twelve months time.

Technical view:

During the month of July the British pound lost 0.45% against the U.S. dollar. This was due in part that the pound declined from a 12-month high of 1.57 to 1.52 during mid-July. For the week ended July 29, the British pound strengthened and gained 0.56%. At present, short term momentum measures are overbought to suggest that the pound should be gearing up for a test of the recent highs.

At the same time, however, medium term momentum measures are showing signs of deterioration. With positive measures are showing signs of deterioration. With positive short term indicators and overbought sentiment measures, we believe that the pound has a good possibility of testing recent highs but will be part of a topping process. This topping process is due to the poor medium term background that is building.

Swiss franc

Fundamental view:

The Swiss franc gained a little against the U.S.\$ trading around SF/U.S.\$ 1.33, up from the last weeks low of SF/U.S.\$ 1.31. Against the Deutschmark, the franc held steady during the last week, continuing to trade around SF/DM 0.84. The Swiss economy continues to post good numbers on the inflation front, with June CPI up only 0.4% yoy. Producer and import prices for June rose 0.3% from May, yet fell 0.4% on annual basis. The U.S.\$'s strength against the DM continued to spill over to the Swiss franc.

Despite the dollar's current strength against the Swiss franc, in the longer run, our forecast calls for the franc to trade higher against the dollar, to SF/U.S.\$ 1.26 in twelve months. This is based on our forecast for continued mark strength against the U.S.\$ and the franc holding steady against the mark.

Technical view:

During the month of July, the Swiss franc lost only 0.56% versus the U.S. dollar as it rebounded towards the latter part of the month. For the week ended July 29, the Swiss franc gained 0.46%. Sentiment has improved over the past week but is still considered in a overbought to neutral position. Short term momentum measures are improving which suggest that the recent decline from the July highs of 1.29 (which is also in 18-month high) to 1.33 will most likely be short-lived.

As a result, we would not be surprised to see a test of these highs of 1.29 and possibly towards resistance. At present, resistance exists at 1.23-1.26. At the same time, medium term momentum measures are still deteriorating indicating that a move to the recent highs and towards resistance levels would establish an important top.

446 economists urge U.S. Congress for quick approval of GATT

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House released a letter from 446 economists Thursday urging Congress to approve the GATT world trade agreement this year.

The move came after Senator Robert Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat and the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

said it was not necessary to pass the accord this year and that it would be better to take more time to consider the complexities of it.

"We believe that implementing this legislation will provide substantial benefits to most Americans," the economists said.

"Postponing the legislation

until 1995 will delay these benefits and will burden the efforts of U.S. firms to expand their foreign markets. Delay will also weaken the international leadership position of the United States," they said.

Mr. Clinton welcomed the support by the 446 economists, who included among

their number four Nobel laureates.

"Economists know that the GATT agreement will help ensure long-term economic growth for America. GATT will add as much as \$100 to \$200 billion to the United States economy every year when fully implemented. That means hundreds of thousands of new jobs for American workers," Mr. Clinton said.

The Uruguay Round of the

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was completed last December. It was seven years in the making.

Besides Mr. Byrd's complaint, legislation to implement the accord on behalf of the United States is currently stalled in Congress. The Senate Finance Committee last week delayed a vote on funding for the agreement.

The Senate Finance Committee delayed its vote on funding GATT because of

last-minute changes by the Clinton administration in its funding package.

Once GATT is implemented, the federal government estimates it will lose some \$12 billion over 10 years in revenues from the lowering of tariffs and duties. The administration has proposed funding to compensate, but the Congressional Budget Office and private estimates put it between \$2 billion and \$4 billion short.

Westland ends 15-year wrangle with Arab states

LONDON (R) — British helicopter maker Westland finally settled its 15-year dispute with the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI) over breach of contract, parent company GKN P-C has said.

GKN said Westland accepted a final payment of £50 million (\$76.8 million), receiving a total £190 million (\$291.8 million) compensation. This was just under half the £385 million (\$591.4 million) a Geneva arbitration court awarded it in June last year.

But GKN said not pursuing the full amount would create goodwill from potential cus-

tomers in Arab states.

"The most important element is that now we are open for business in those four markets in a way we weren't previously," GKN director of public affairs, Nick de Jongh, said.

The AOI, set up in 1975 by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt, formed a joint company with Westland called Arab British Helicopter Company (ABHC) to manufacture a minimum of 250 Lynx helicopters.

But the venture collapsed in 1979 as a result of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel and led to Westland launching a

claim for damages in the Geneva-based arbitration court, Arbitral, a year later.

"The agreement is in full and final settlement of all claims made and all Arbitral and court proceedings arising out of the dispute," GKN said in a statement.

The agreement also meant an award of £200 million (\$307.2 million) that had been made against Westland by an Egyptian court for non-performance of various contracts was wiped off the slate. Mr. De Jongh said.

The AOI dispute became a key feature in GKN's successful takeover of Westland in March.

WORLD RESOURCES

DAJANI JEWELLERS

GEMS: PRECIOUS & SEMI
GOLD: 18, 21, 22 & 24 KT.
DESIGNERS OF JEWELRY

Amman Since 1989
Amra Hotel Shops
6th Circle - Amman

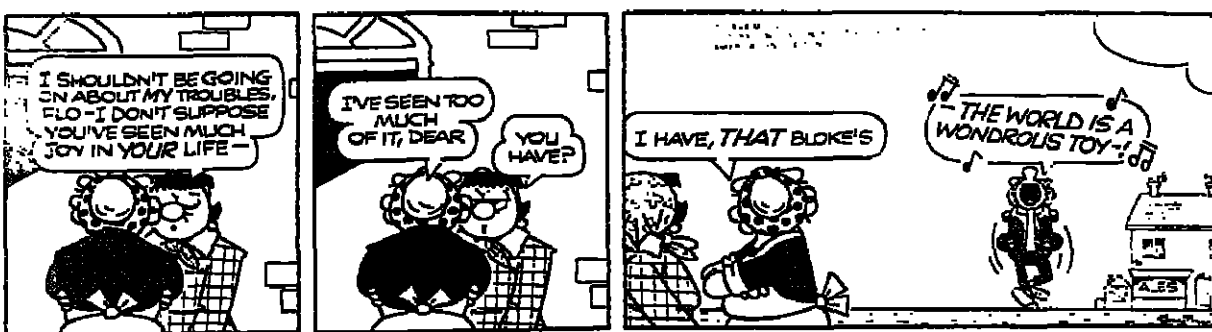
THE ONLY SHOP
OF ITS KIND

Rio de Janeiro Since 1975
Av. N. S. Copacabana
Rio de Janeiro

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Matt'n'Jeff

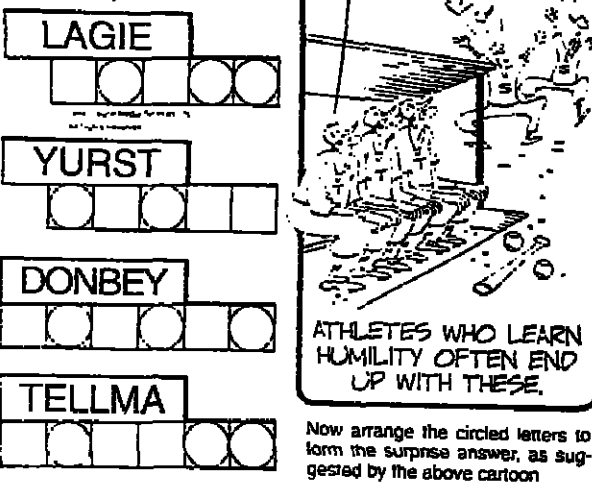


THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumbles: DANDY AUDIT ENDURE WALLOR
Answer: What the watch repairman did in his leisure moments -- HE UNWOUND

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 6, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Mercury and the Leo Moon square Jupiter today which could require that some of those pending plans move to the back burner to avoid further input and development. Avoid a tiresome person who drains your energy.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your hunches are not good early in the day but later they are most helpful. Join good friends for recreational purposes.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make plans to leave more in the days ahead. Take time to improve your appearance and you can easily impress others.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can plan how to have added abundance in the future. A wiser attitude toward a loved one brings excellent results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study the amount of effort needed to gain an important goal. Show that you will go to any length to please the one you love with a surprise gift.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Handle any civic duties ahead of you early in the day and later you can enjoy the social side of life. Be

active and happy with your life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Look over your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Be sure to control your temper at all times today and do not show any anger to anyone.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Plan how to complete your regular chores with fewer interruptions and more efficiency. Study statements for possible errors in computation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You could easily make a costly mistake where finances are concerned so be on the alert to errors. Engage in your favorite hobby for peace of mind.

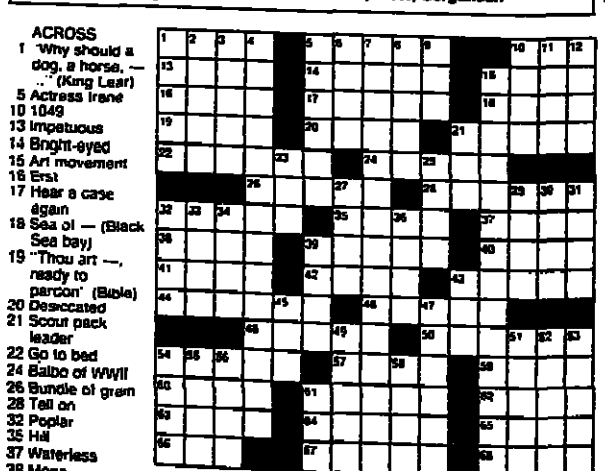
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may find it hard to get things done early in the day, but later you can make up for lost time. Strive for increased happiness.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get an early start on the tasks you have to do instead of complaining and you get fine results from it. Be logical in all your ideas.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Others around you may seem pessimistic about the future, but don't let this influence you. Maintain a cheerful manner in the eye of adversity.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen



ACROSS
1 Why should a dog, a horse...
5 Across time
10 1049
13 Impetuous
14 Bright-eyed
15 Art movement
16 Era
17 Hear a case
18 Sea of...
19 "Trow art...
20 Deceased
21 Scout pack
22 Go to bed
24 Balbo of WWI
25 Bundle of grain
28 Tell on
32 Poplar
35 Hal
37 Waterless
38 Mona...
39 Segment
40 Big Ben sound
41 Blue dye
42 Robert or Alan
43 Family member
44 Sneaky one
45 Egg and id man
46 Rapt
47 Emerson
48 Heavy don
49 Laid
50 Graciosa horse
51 Jason's ship
52 Famous word
53 Fred's elder
54 Catch
55 Course tie
56 "... With Love"
57 Prima donna
58 Aggregate
59 "Sweetest"
60 Park, Colo.
61 British weapon
62 Occasion
63 Minor crowd
64 Sound well
65 Sale
66 Owning
67 "I cannot tell"
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Local heroes give hosts something to cheer

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — In front of a nearly empty arena, Surya Bonaly of France gave a straightforward performance Friday to take the lead after the women's figure skating technical programme at the Goodwill Games.

The same Yubileiny Ice Palace that had rocked the night before for St. Petersburg's hometown heroes was deathly quiet for the start of this showcase event, a result of the scheduling problems that have plagued the games this week.

"I don't think anybody in all of St. Petersburg realises that the women's figure skating technical programmes are going on at the very moment," lamented former world champion Dick Button, who is covering the competition for the TBS Television Network.

The sparse crowd at the 7,000-seat arena — competitors coaches, officials and soldiers together nearly outnumbered the few hundred spectators — led to one uninspired performance after Americans, botched the required jump combination.

Unable to play off the crowd, Nicole Bobek, Michelle Kwan and Elaine Zayak stumbled through their routines and placed fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively. All three received several marks below 5.0.

"I never do that," said Zayak, the 1982 world champion and recently reinstated amateur, referring to her problems executing the triple toe loop-double toe loop combination. "I at least do the double."

Bonaly, the four-time European champion, skated to the same short programme she used at this year's Olympics. It was typical Bonaly, solid with her jumps, but not in full flow with the music. Her marks ranged from 5.6 to 5.8 for both required elements and presentation.

The one exception to the dour session was St. Petersburg-born Olga Markova. Dressed in a short, gold-coloured dress and long black gloves, Markova gave an exciting, sassy performance, nailing a crisp triple Lutz-doubled toe loop combination. Her scores ranged from 5.3 to 5.7, placing her in second.

The women's free dance, which counts for two-thirds of the total score, is Saturday night.

The session was in marked contrast to Thursday night's competition, which finally gave St. Petersburg something to cheer about.

People from this struggling city, maligned for the series of gaffes that has beset the Goodwill Games, clapped and cheered as three of their own took the lead.

"It feels great here. It feels like a vacation," said Tamara Moskvina, who coaches Pairs leaders and 1992 Olympic champions Artur Dmitriev and Natalia Mishkutienok on the same rink where the event is being held.

Another local, reigning Olympic champion, Alexei Urmanov, led the men's competition after the technical programme.

The decision to skate at Yubileiny wasn't made until late Thursday morning, about nine hours before the start of competition. The skating had already been put off one day because the ice wasn't ready, and organisers made contingency plans to shift to the nearby Ska ice hockey hall.

Once it did get going, Russians excelled and the Americans, with the exception of Eldredge, flopped.

Urmanov, skating to music from Verdi, dazzled the crowd with a programme that included a triple axel combination, earning 5.85 and 5.95 for the required elements and all 5.95 for presentation.

Mishkutienok and Dmitriev took the lead over the current world champions, Evgenia Shishkov and Vadim Naumov, in the Paris technical programme. Another Russian pair, Marina Eltsova and Andrei Bushkov, were

third.

Americans Stefanie Stiegler and Lance Travis were fifth and Calla Urbanski and Rocky Marval, who recently reunited after skating with different partners, placed last in the seven-pair field.

In the dance compulsories, worth 20 per cent of the total score, Irina Romanova and Igor Yaroshenko of Ukraine led a weak field.

The men's and pairs competitions concluded Friday night.

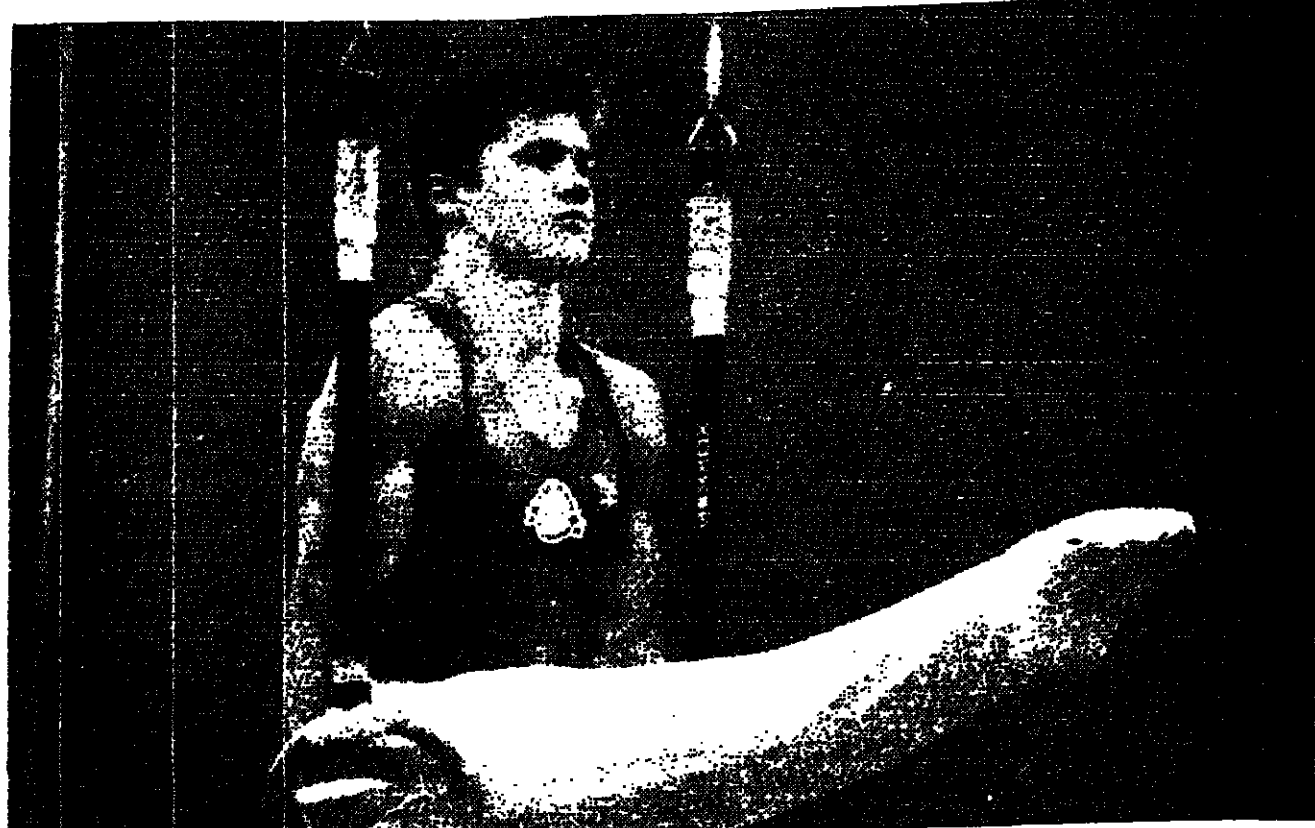
In other events Thursday: — Yachting events were wiped out for the second straight day due to lack of wind on the Gulf of Finland.

— The U.S. women's basketball team beat Russia 77-63 to reach the semifinals against tournament favourite China. France will play Russia in the other semifinal.

— In canoe-kayak, Russians won two golds and three silvers and the Americans a silver and a bronze in the three kayak and two canoe races.

— In diving, Chen Lixia of China won gold in the women's 1-metre springboard.

— In men's gymnastics, Russia's Aleksei Nemov followed up his victory in the all-around competition with golds in two of three individual apparatus finals.



MUSCLE POWER: Russian Alexi Nemov performs on the rings during the individual all-around gymnastics competition of the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg. Nemov won the gold medal (AFP photo)

Games in St. Petersburg. Nemov won the gold medal (AFP photo)

Sport mirrors life in post-communist Russia

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — Sport, faithfully mirroring life, is experiencing turbulent times in post-communist Russia.

"The problem is always the money," sighs Alexander Kozlovsky, Russia's leading sports administrator. "The money is never enough."

Kozlovsky has witnessed first hand the dramatic, and often traumatic, changes in sport since the collapse of the Soviet regime three years ago.

Formerly deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, he is now vice-president of the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC).

Once the state poured money into sport, producing an endless stream of champions in one of the Soviet Union's prime propaganda tools of the cold war. Now Kozlovsky must fight for every ruble.

In an interview, Kozlovsky recounted with a shudder the difficulties Russian sports authorities faced when the state funds suddenly dried up.

"It was terrible," he said. "We were in a terrible position."

The old Soviet countries, competing as the CIS, managed to find the cash to attend the 1992 winter and summer Olympics.

But sports administrators, in common with other Russians, soon realised there was not going to be any quick free market fix for their economic travails.

The state is also no longer an option for Russian sport-federations, despite President Boris Yeltsin's well-publicised love of sport.

"We asked the government for 35 billion rubles last year," Kozlovsky said. "They gave us 12 billion."

Accordingly, the Russian federations are turning to a mix of sponsorship, marketing and an Olympic lottery to raise money to find and train the champions of the future.

Easily the most important sponsors are the U.S. sports clothing and footwear giants Reebok who have signed a

four-year contract with the ROC.

"It's the largest sports contract we have ever had in this country," Kozlovsky said.

Kozlovsky would not comment on the amount of money Reebok are pumping in to Russia, saying merely: "It's huge."

John Boulter, Reebok's vice-president for global sports marketing, also would not comment on the sum involved.

He said Reebok had a contract with the ROC and 24 sports federations. Reebok outfitted the Russian teams in this year's winter Olympics and soccer World Cup.

Athletes competing in the basketball, boxing, weightlifting and gymnastic competitions during the third goodwill games here are sporting Reebok products.

The company opened a store in Moscow last year and another in St. Petersburg this year and has mounted an advertising campaign on television and in magazines.

"It's a great country," Boulter said. "In years to come, it will become a great country for Reebok."

John Duerden, Reebok executive vice-president for worldwide operations said a market of 200 million consumers had the potential to make Russia and the whole of eastern Europe the site of the next sports and fitness

explosions.

The leading Russian athletes can expect to flourish internationally in the commercial 1990s and top track and field athletes, for example, can now keep all their appearance and prize money.

The federations have also been able to stay afloat and Kozlovsky said few of Russia's internationally renowned coaches had succumbed to the temptation to live abroad.

Vladimir Ivanchenko, head of the Russian Boxing Federation, has set up his own company to help get money into the sport, though when asked to describe the organisation's activities federation secretary-general Yuri Markov snapped: "You are to ask no more questions about that."

The gymnastics federation has also managed to keep its famous schools of excellence afloat.

"It's all about borrowing for today and forgetting about tomorrow," one observer commented.

Kozlovsky's overwhelming concern is to get enough money to support a Russian team at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

"We need \$8,000,000," he said. "That's only a fraction of the \$70,000,000 the U.S. Olympic committee will spend. We are confident we will get it."

U.S. beats gutsy Spain on first day of World Basketball Championships

China upsets Brazil in overtime

TORONTO (R) — The U.S. Dream Team II got a wake-up call from a gutsy Spanish team and China pulled off an overtime upset of Brazil on the first day of the World Basketball Championships, late Thursday.

Spain stayed close for the first half before the U.S. collection of NBA stars pulled away for a 115-100 victory, led by captains Joe Dumars of the Detroit Pistons with 21 points and Reggie Miller of the Indiana Pacers with 20. Veteran forward Jordi Villacampa led Spain with 28 points.

"This game is the best thing that could happen to us," said U.S. coach Don Nelson, coach of the Golden State Warriors. "It was a wake-up call."

In the other pool game at Copps coliseum in Hamilton, Ontario, China battled back from a nine-point deficit to force overtime, winning 97-93 in the extra session.

Chinese forward Weidong Hu scored 27 points, including 14 of 17 free-throw shots. Teammate Naigu Wu helped force the five-minute overtime by contributing seven points with just one minute and 14 seconds remaining.

Brazil's veteran forward Paulo de Almeida scored 26 points while teammate Maury de Souza added 23.

In a pool B match-up in Hamilton, Andrew Gaze poured in 31 points as Australia escaped with an 87-85 win over South Korea.

"We allowed ourselves to get lulled into a false sense of

security, but fortunately we were able to hang on," said Gaze, a national team member since 1982.

"I think we committed the cardinal sin of not showing them enough respect and we almost paid the ultimate price. I almost thought this was going to be Korea's day," he added.

Kyung-Eun Moon scored 24 points to pace South Korea, going 8-for-15 from three-point range.

In the other pool B game, Croatia, a strong contender for the silver medal behind the United States, beat Cuba 85-65.

Croatian centre Dino Radja, of the NBA's Boston Celtics, scored 25 points to lead all scorers.

In pool C at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto, Russia, a strong medal contender, and Canada, the host nation, both built huge leads and coasted to easy victories.

Russia ran off the game's first 11 points in an 84-64 victory against Argentina. Evgeni Kissourin led Russia with 19 points.

Canada built an 11-1 lead against Angola in its 83-52 triumph.

Joey Vickery came off the bench to score 14 points in 21 minutes for Canada, as 11 players broke into the scoring column for the host country.

Angola's Herlander Combra hit all five shots he took from three-point range and led all scorers with 16.

In pool D at Maple Leaf Gardens, Puerto Rico crushed Egypt 102-74 points and Greece beat Germany

68-58.

Jose Ortiz, a former member of the NBA's Utah Jazz, scored 19 points and James Carter added 17 to lead Puerto Rico, which erased a 21-15 deficit in the first half.

Greece, which trailed by as many as 11 points, used a

22-4 first-half run to beat Germany, the defending European champions.

The Greeks were led by Panagiotis Fassoulas with 18 points and Fanis Christodoulou with 16. Henning Harnisch was the Germans' higher scorer with 16 points.



German striker Jurgen Klinsmann (right) poses for photographers on the turf at White Hart Lane, his new home ground, with Spurs' manager Ossie Ardiles. Klinsmann was acquired by Tottenham Hotspurs from Monaco for 2.6 million pounds last week (AFP photo)

Klinsmann makes Tottenham debut today

LONDON (R) — German World Cup striker Jurgen Klinsmann will make his debut for English club Tottenham on Saturday in a pre-season friendly against Watford, the club said on Wednesday.

Klinsmann, who signed from French League club Monaco earlier this week, is expected to partner England international Teddy Sheringham who is returning to the

side following an ankle injury.

Tottenham's other world cup-signing, Romanian Ilie Dumitrescu, flies into the country at the weekend.

Leeds United received written confirmation from the Department of Employment on Wednesday that South African striker Philomen Masinga has been granted a work permit.

They have agreed a fee of

275,000 with Johannesburg club Mamelodi for 25-year-old Masinga, and the government department's decision could open the way for more South African footballers to join English clubs.

Masinga, who is with Leeds at a training camp in Italy, is expected to play in England for the first time when Leeds visit Port Vale for a pre-season friendly on Saturday.

Government approves safety plan for Italian GP

ROME (R) — The Italian Formula One Grand Prix, called off on safety grounds, on Friday appeared back on track when the Italian government approved a plan, widely criticised by environmentalists, to make the Monza circuit safer. Agriculture Minister Adriana Poli Bortone told reporters the cabinet had approved a plan to widen run-off areas at the track's famous Lesmo curves. The race is scheduled for Sept. 11.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese FA bans players for brawling

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese Football Association has banned two players, including England-import Craig Alladys, for the rest of the season following an on-pitch brawl. The 19-year-old Alladys and Chinese international Hao Haidong were both suspended from all remaining matches in the fledgling professional "Marlboro League" after they laid into each other during a July 31 clash between their respective clubs, Guangdong and Chinese Army. Both clubs were fined 2,000 yuan (\$250). Hao's suspension bars him from competing for China in the football competition at the Asian Games in Hiroshima in October. The new league kicked off on April 17, marking the beginning of professional football in China and introducing foreign players for the first time. Football is China's most popular sport and the league has proved enormously successful with most matches being broadcast live on television.

Springbok team invites Le Roux to homecoming

WELLINGTON (R) — The South African rugby team touring New Zealand has invited banned player Johan Le Roux to join their homecoming, the New Zealand Press Association reported on Friday. Le Roux was ordered home by the Springbok management after biting a black captain Sean Fitzpatrick's ear during the second test a fortnight ago. He subsequently received a ban from all rugby until March 1996. However, the South African players have sent an invitation to the 32-year-old Transvaal player asking him to meet them at Johannesburg airport in his Springbok tour travelling attire. The invitation, sent by all the South African players, was initiated by Brendan Venter on behalf of their players' committee. South African manager Jannie Engelbrecht, who dismissed Le Roux from the tour in Wellington, said the decision was nothing to do with team management. However, they believed it was a good gesture from the players and they were entitled to make the offer on their own initiative. The Springboks play their final match against New Zealand in Auckland on Saturday. They are 2-0 in the three test series.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA MIRON

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AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 3 2
♥ J 6
♦ Q J 10 9 8
♣ Q 7 6 5

EAST
♠ 10 8 7
♥ K 8 6 4
♦ A K 7 2
♣ A 7

SOUTH
♠ K 4
♥ K Q 5
♦ A K 7 2
♣ A 7

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ NT Pass Pass
2 NT Pass Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♠

Just because the opponents are planning your demise doesn't mean you should go willingly to the slaughter. There might be a way to avoid the calamity.

Looking at the North-South hands, it is easy to see that five clubs is an unbeatable contract—the defenders can get no more than two trump tricks. However, minor-suit games are notoriously difficult to

reach. Since South has denied a four-card major, North has no reason to presume there is any better contract than three no trump.

Declarer won the opening spade lead in hand and blithely set about establishing club tricks. East's king won the second trick and a spade return forced out the ace. When West gained the lead with the ace of clubs, the defenders were able to cash three more tricks for a one-trick set.

It should have been obvious to declarer that the defenders would have at least three spade tricks to cash before the clubs could get rolling, so playing on that suit was tantamount to abetting one's own execution. With eight more tricks available outside of clubs, there was a 50 percent chance of setting up a ninth trick while surrendering the lead just once.

The simplest way to go about the hand is to win the first trick with the king of spades and immediately lead a low diamond. If West holds the queen, the lack of diamonds will become the fulfilling trick whether or not West rises with her majesty and before the defenders can run their spade tricks.

Yates aims for golden farewell

LONDON (AFP) — British veteran Sean Yates looks set to ride out in a blaze of glory in next week's Tour of Britain.

The 34-year-old is widely tipped to help Motorola to a third consecutive victory in what is expected to be his last appearance in the 500-mile race, which starts in Glasgow on Monday.

The Sussex rider this year became only the third Briton to wear the coveted stage leader's yellow jersey in the Tour de France.

The Motorola squad also includes Australian Phil Anderson — winner in 1991 and 1993 — experienced Mexican Raul Alcala, and British road race champion Brian Smith.

Yates will lead a roll-call of Tour de France riders who attracted more than a million spectators to the English stages of the 1994 tour.

The goodwill generated by the two English stages and the imminent seventh round of the World Cup — in Leeds on Aug. 14 — has given the Tour of Britain a major boost.

Race organiser Alan Rushon said Friday: "The two days the Tour spent in Britain has had a tremendous effect both in terms of the field, which is the best ever, and in interest from the general public."

"There has been a lot of feedback from riders and team managers who were staggered at the atmosphere they encountered. The teams see the huge potential interest there is in the UK for professional cycling."

Denmark's Bo Hamburger and Jan Svorada of Slovakia, stage winners in France this year, will be among the 108-strong peloton, as will Olaf Ludwig, Johan Museeuw and Viatcheslav Ekimov, all of whom are rated in the world's top 20.

Svorada took the points prize in last year's race and will be a strong contender for overall success this time judging by his performance in the Tour de France and his three stage wins in the recent Giro d'Italia.

RAC holds autotest contest

AMMAN (J.T.) — An autotest competition was held on Friday, Aug. 5 at the Royal Automobile Club's Driver Training Centre Track. The event was the first of its kind in almost a year. Participation was limited to competitors who had taken part in similar events prior to 1988. Several drivers who used to race in the past also took part. There were more than twenty cars entered.

The competition commenced at 10.00 a.m. and each driver had three attempts at the specially-designed course, driving individually against the clock.

The results were calculated for two categories: one for the best individual times and the second category for the cumulative times for the two best runs.

At the prize-giving ceremony at the conclusion of the event, trophies were awarded to the winning drivers. The final results were as follows:

Best cumulative times:
1st. Sinan Sami Daihatsu Charade GTi 5m.45.57s.
2nd. Hasan Tabbaa Renault Clio Williams 5m.50.23s.
3rd. Yanal Qomog Renault 5GT Turbo 5m.57.73s.

British get christie boost

HELSINKI (AFP) — World and Olympic champion Linford Christie is raring to go at the European athletics championships — despite not racing for almost a month.

British athletics chief coach Malcolm Arnold revealed on the eve of the games here on Friday that Christie, who damaged his hamstring in mid July at Crystal Palace during his second defeat of the season, had wanted to make his comeback at Monte Carlo earlier this week.

But he said: "He was more or less not allowed to run. But he did a session of 10, 30 and 60-metre starts and his times were just hundreds of a second under those he ran last year — so that augurs well."

Every athlete kept out of competition wants a couple of soft races of help their confidence but at least it won't be like the World Championships here, when he ran into good Americans in his first heat.

Arnold refused to predict whether the team could match its record-breaking medal haul of 18 in Split four years ago, arguing: "I'll let our athletes' legs and arms do the talking. All I'll say now is that we face a tough project."

Germany wins team show jumping

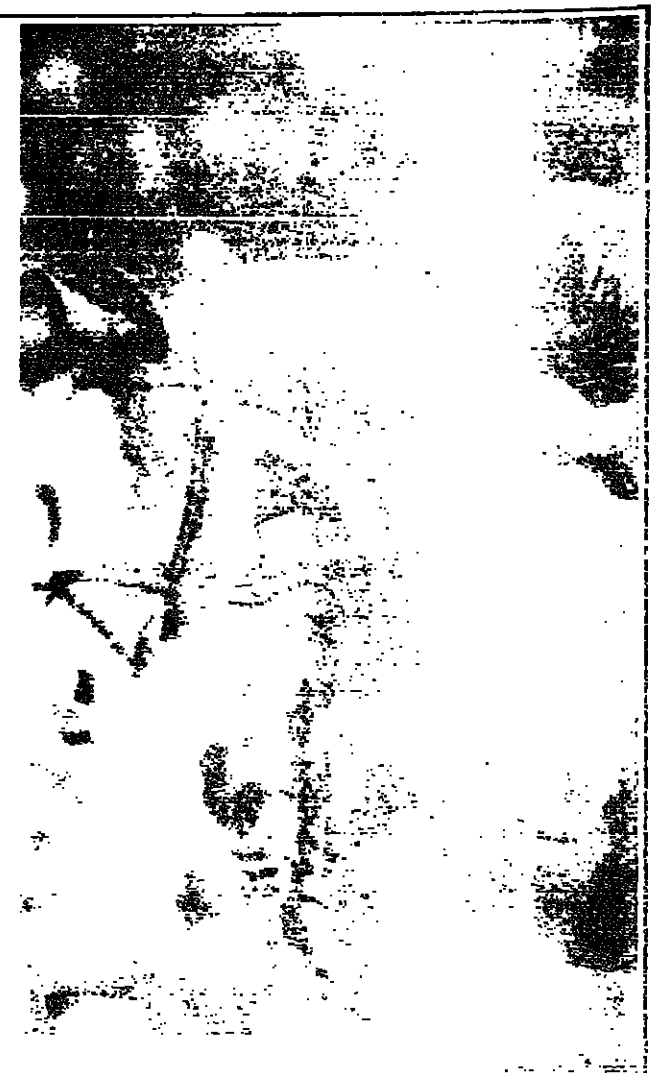
THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS (AP) — Germany won the team show jumping event Thursday at the World Equestrian games ahead of France and Switzerland.

German riders Franke Sloothak and Soren van Ronne ended the day first and second respectively in the individual standings, and countryman Ludger Beerbaum took fourth to assure Germany of the team gold.

Sloothak rode flawless rounds twice in the day. Germany had led going into the second and decisive round with a cushion of nearly eight points over France, the overnight leader.

After the morning's first round, Germany leaptfrogged the French to go to the top of the table while the British dropped off the pace from fourth to eighth. Britain finished the day in sixth.

The French team could not hold on to the lead it took Wednesday, slipping to take silver overall after the team managed just one clear round in the day. Switzerland retained its overnight position to take the bronze medal. The U.S. team of Patty Stovel, Susan Hutchison, Leslie Lenehan and Tim Grubb



Germany's Franke Sloothak, with his horse San Patrignano, won the team event at the World Equestrian Games. The German team won the gold medal. (AP photo)

had a better day, jumping two places from seventh to end in fifth place.

Stovel is in eighth place in the individual standings.

The individual show jumping competition continues on Saturday and will be decided Sunday. In the

second round, Belgium's team won the silver medal, driving off the top of the table with 62.5 points.

Stovel was Michael's partner in the team's victory.

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	Richard Gere/Sharon Stone in INTERSECTION		Sharihan-Mahmoud Hamideh — Hussein Fahmi in Women's market Arabic		CONCORD '1' PRINCE OF TIDES Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Beauty And The Beast Show: 3:30 only ROBINHOOD Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		John Saxton/Sherrie Rose — in MAXIMUM FORCE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00 Starting Aug. 15 the political play "SAHRA KANAUNIEH"	Today & Everyday Abu, Awad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Presented by GENIE A THIEF! (Salem Ya Salem) Daily at 8:00 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tue & Wed

NEWS IN BRIEF

Husseini, Jerusalem's Israeli mayor to meet

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian leader Faisal al Hussein said on Friday Jerusalem's right-wing Jewish Mayor, Ehud Olmert, had agreed to meet him. "Olmert accepted my proposal to meet as two citizens of Jerusalem, to get acquainted and to discuss the city's affairs and problems," Mr. Hussein said. The meeting date is not yet set. Israel's army radio quoted Mr. Olmert saying he would speak to Mr. Hussein at a get-acquainted meeting. It said he would speak to Mr. Hussein as a Jerusalem resident and not as a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Mr. Olmert's spokesman was not available to comment. Mr. Hussein, the senior PLO representative in Jerusalem, told Reuters the meeting would take place at his home in Arab East Jerusalem, at Mr. Olmert's home in Jerusalem, or at a third party's house. He stressed, for now, there would be no meeting at Mr. Olmert's office or at his headquarters at Orient House in East Jerusalem.

Hands cut off for 5 Sudanese in Mecca

RIYADH (AP) — The right hands of five Sudanese men cut off at the wrist Friday after Islamic courts convicted them of repeated burglaries. The Islamic sentence was carried out in the environs of the Holy City of Mecca, in the province of Jeddah. The Interior Ministry said in a statement. Saudi Arabia is ruled under Islamic law in which convicted murderers are beheaded. Unrepentant thieves have their hands cut off, and adulterers are stoned. The kingdom rejects criticism of its penal code by international humanitarian groups such as Amnesty International, saying this constitutes an affront to the Islamic faith. Amnesty has listed 87 beheadings in Saudi Arabia in 1993, and is campaigning to get the death penalty abolished in 32 countries including the kingdom. About a dozen people have been beheaded in Saudi Arabia during the first seven months of this year.

Arab accused of killing Jew to clear name

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An Arab who collaborated with Israeli security forces was accused in a Tel Aviv court on Friday of murdering an Israeli to clear his name with Palestinian guerrillas, the domestic item news agency said. It said Saad Al Grabli, 48, who lived in Tel Aviv, was accused of befriending and killing David Mishali, a 28-year-old neighbour, to try to win acceptance into a Gaza guerrilla group. It said the incident was saying the two men would exchange visits, play cards and drink together before the Palestinian stabbed Mishali to death in his sleep with a knife in late June.

Police arrest suspect linked to 13 slayings

ASSIUT (AP) — Police on Friday arrested a Muslim militant suspect who has been on the most-wanted list for more than two years for an attack in southern Egypt in which 13 Coptic Christians were killed. Farag Abdul Nabi Farag, 25, was seized as radicals battled police in a village about 50 kilometres north of Assiut, according to police sources. The sources said a pistol and a map showing important buildings in the area and homes of police officers were seized with Farag. He is accused of being among about 45 extremists who attacked Christian farmers with rifles and pistols in May 1992 at the village of Manshiet Nasser, not far from where Farag was captured. The attack grew out of a two-month dispute that began with a Christian's purchase of a house belonging to a Muslim and included the killing of a local Muslim radical leader. Fifteen of the attackers were seized immediately after the attack and others have been caught since.

Cyprus fines Filipino skipper

LARNACA (AP) — A Filipino ship captain was fined \$750 Cyprus pounds (\$1,500) Friday for docking at the port of Amagosta in Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus. Captain Mendonca Aires, 44, master of the freighter Orifal, apologised to the court in this port in the Greek sector of the war-divided island, claiming he was not aware that Famagusta was listed as an illegal port by authorities here. Famagusta, once a Greek Cypriot-dominated city, was captured by Turkish troops when they invaded in 1974 and seized the northern one-third of the island. Courts in the Greek sector routinely fine ship captains who use Famagusta. Authorities discovered Aires had visited that port last May when custom officers checked his ship's log after the Orifal docked at Larnaca to unload cargo.

Cairo cleaners spruce up for conference

CAIRO (R) — Thousands of street cleaners will be issued new uniforms as Cairo prepares to host the international conference on population and development, Al Akhar newspaper reported on Friday. Cairo Governor Omar Abdul Akher will distribute 6,000 new uniforms to street cleaners over the next two weeks as part of a plan to beautify Cairo, one of the most densely populated cities in the world. Two thousand flower pots will be placed in squares and streets and more traffic controllers will be deployed. Mr. Abdul Akher has also ordered buildings to be repainted white and bridge railings green, the newspaper added. The United Nations-sponsored conference, which will be attended by at least 20,000 delegates, including prime ministers.

Senegal renews ties with Israel

DAKAR (R) — Senegal said on Thursday it was renewing relations with Israel, severed at the time of the 1973 Middle East war. "The governments of the Republic of Senegal and the State of Israel, desiring to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries... have decided to re-establish their diplomatic relations as from Aug. 4, 1994, an official statement published in Senegal's capital said. A diplomat said Israel placed great importance on its return to Senegal which it saw as a window on Muslim Africa.

Friday prayers

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended Friday prayer at Hafithah Mosque in Jabal Al Hadid in the southeastern outskirts of Amman. The Crown Prince and worshippers listened to a sermon delivered by Sheikh Mohammad Ghaleb Al Tayyeb, who focused on Islam as the religion of peace and mercy.

Sheikh Tayyeb said the Holy Koran warns of divisions and stressed the importance of unity, which reflects power, might, dignity and pride.

He reiterated the Hashemites' role in protecting holy places, saying that they have safeguarded the holy places in Jerusalem and have prevented the jurisdiction of the sites. "Nobody can deny what



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets with worshippers at Hafithah Mosque Friday (Petra photo). The Hashemites have done in Jerusalem and the holy places there," he said. Attending the prayers were Prince Hassan's special advisor, minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Abdul Salam Abbadi, several deputies and government officials and a large number of worshippers.

U.N. seeks aid and warily urges Rwandans to go home

GENEVA (Agencies) — The United Nations appealed on Friday for antibiotics to save the lives of Rwandan refugees, and cautiously encouraged them to return home.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also said its 20 delegates were closely monitoring the situation in Rwanda amid rumours of score-settling killings of returning Hutus.

Spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said that with more than two million litres of clean water arriving daily in camps near Goma, Zaire, it had revised its list of urgently-needed goods from donors.

Jet fuel is in short supply for relief planes and 60 manned trucks are also being sought to help transport Rwandan refugees.

"Now our top and urgent priority that we ask for are essential drugs and medical supplies, particularly antibiotics against dysentery," she told a news briefing in Geneva.

The UNHCR and the World Health Organisation

(WHO) fear 300,000 of the nearly one million refugees around Goma could contract dysentery, a bloody diarrhoea which can be fatal.

They have warned between 30,000 and 45,000 could die of it.

Ms. Foa said UNHCR's medical coordinator had reported on Friday the death rate in the Goma camps had fallen to about 500 a day.

"We are still very scared about dysentery, although the amount of water that is coming in now is helpful," she added.

The mortality rate was down from about 2,000 a day at the height of the cholera epidemic, but at 500 was more than double the 210 deaths which could be expected daily among such a group, according to the UNHCR spokeswoman.

The new figure was still "totally unacceptable," Foa said.

In Kigali, a senior Rwandan official has accused French soldiers who have set up a humanitarian safety zone in the southwest of Rwanda to protect civilians

from ethnic carnage of discouraging refugees from going home.

"We are under the impression that the French are not making any efforts to convince the people to go home, indeed they are discouraging them," said Jacques Bihozagara, the minister in the new Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) government.

The deputy commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR II), General Henry Anjido, said the U.N. hoped it could take over from the French in the safety zone by Aug. 22 when the French are scheduled to have completed their withdrawal.

Meanwhile Radio Gatsasha, set up by Reporters Sans Frontières (reporters Without Borders) began broadcasting information supplied by non-government organisations telling the refugees where to get drinking water, food and medicine, giving hygiene and medical advice and transmitting personal appeals from refugees looking for their families.

'Rushdie not condemned in Sudan'

PARIS (AFP) — Sudanese Islamic leader Hassan Al Tourabi said British author Salman Rushdie, sentenced to death in Iran, "had not been convicted for renouncing his religion" in Sudan and that "Islamic law did not apply to people living abroad."

In an article Friday by the French daily newspaper Libération, Dr. Tourabi, generally considered as the spiritual guide of the Sudanese military junta, said Islamic law was not "immutable" but "open to interpretation in different Islamic communities."

"As far as Salman Rushdie is concerned, he cannot be sentenced for renouncing his religion in Sudan," Dr. Tourabi said, contradicting Iran's sentencing of the writer.

"Even if Islam is universal in its implications, the jurisdiction of the Islamic state does not extend beyond its borders. People abroad are not subject to Islamic law but to obligations according to international law," Dr. Tourabi added.

Nihal Abequa's family names Jordanian lawyers

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The family of the wife of Mohammad Abequa, who is accused of killing his wife and kidnapping his two children, has appointed two Jordanian lawyers to represent them to press their case to regain the custody of the children, an American attorney said Friday.

Nancy Feinberg also said that there was a possibility of solving the case without resorting to court.

"We are exploring various options without having to go to court. An administrative solution is possible, and I hope it would be possible," Ms. Feinberg told the Jordan Times.

The case stems from the July 4 murder of Nihal Abequa, 40, whose body was found two days later in her New Jersey apartment. Mr. Abequa, who was arrested on July 20 and remains in Jordanian police custody, told interrogators that he killed his wife and fled to Jordan. He was formally charged with murder on July 24 and with kidnapping on July 27.

Nesime Dokur, the victim's sister, arrived in Jordan on August 1 after being invited by His Majesty King Hussein. She was accompanied by her daughter, Ms. Feinberg and another American lawyer, and a New Jersey senator's secretary.

Ms. Feinberg said the Jordanian lawyers who will represent them in the case are Yakoub Far and Abdullah Al Khalil. Jordanian law prohibits foreign lawyers from appearing at tribunals in the Kingdom.

Ms. Feinberg said that a consul from the U.S. embassy visited the two children twice and he assured the Dokur family that the children were in good condition.

Wesley Egan, the United States ambassador in Amman, said Thursday that he would press his efforts to extradite Mr. Abequa to the U.S. although an extradition treaty does not exist between the two countries.

"My job is to keep asking the Jordanian authorities for his extradition," Mr. Egan told a press conference.

(Continued on page 7)

Yedioth reports secret Iraqi-Israeli contacts

TEL AVIV (AP) — Iraq has made peace overtures to Israel, most recently at a secret meeting last month in Europe attended by senior figures from both countries, a newspaper reported Friday.

Baghdad has also sought to use Israel as a conduit to Washington, offering to drop any territorial claims against Kuwait in exchange for an end to a four-year embargo imposed on the eve of the Gulf war, the Yedioth Ahronoth daily said.

Quoting an unidentified political source, the newspaper said that the meeting between a top Iraqi defence official and an unidentified Israeli was held just before Israel and Jordan opened historic peace talks along their border July 18.

It said that Iraq proposed a package involving an end to the U.N. sanctions imposed after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, joining Middle East peace moves, welcoming Israeli talks with Jordan, selling oil to the Jewish state and opening mutual diplomatic interest offices.

A senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity said that Israel would be

open to contacts with the Iraqis as long as the United States approved.

Israel has reportedly held secret contacts with Iraq in the past, before the 1991 Gulf war, mostly in the mid-1980s when the Jewish state considered helping Baghdad in its war against Iran.

Now against the threat of Iran obtaining a nuclear arsenal and recent bombings of Jewish targets in Argentina, Panama and London, that Israel has linked to Tehran, appear to be spurring renewed Israeli contacts with Iran's worst foe, Iraq.

The contacts reported Friday began with feelers from Baghdad about four months ago which Israel apparently turned down, the newspaper said. In addition, an Arabic language weekly Al Sinara reported a week ago that Iraq's U.N. ambassador offered his Israeli counterpart Gadi Yaacobi to open peace talks.

But Israel also has problems talking to Iraq. During the Gulf war, Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel, heavily damaging homes in the Tel Aviv area, killing two people and injuring hundreds.

Paris to expel 6 militant suspects

PARIS (Agencies) — Six of 16 suspected militants detained in northeast France on Friday have been served with deportation orders, the interior ministry said here.

The emergency government orders were served on members of the group rounded up by French authorities and held in disused barracks at Folembay out of "the imperative need to ensure state security and public safety," the ministry said in a statement.

The statement confirmed orders served earlier Friday against two members of the group.

The ministry confirmed that nine suspects were detained at the barracks Friday. Officials said earlier that 11 had been held. But two of that number were in fact still being sought.

The nine joined seven other suspects detained in Folembay Thursday.

The two men earlier served with deportation orders, whose identities were not revealed but who were captured in central France, were "active members of movements which encourage the use of violence and terrorism," Lyon authorities said.

One of those deportation orders was given "absolute priority" and the other would run its normal course, the authorities said, adding that the two men were told they could appeal against the directive.

Five Frenchmen — three gendarmes and two consular officials — were assassinated Wednesday in Algiers in a foiled car-bomb attack claimed by an extremist faction, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

A London spokesman for the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat said on Friday that the group had faxed the newspaper a statement saying it had carried the attack. He gave no further details.

The hardline group, which advocates a total war to overthrow the Algerian authorities, last year gave foreigners a month to get out of the country or face death.

"The group claimed responsibility for the killings in Algeria and said one of its units planted a car-bomb inside a building in the embassy housing complex but it did not explode," the newspaper said in its latest edition.

"This was all carried out by the explosives and sabotage unit of the Algerian Armed Islamic Group. It said it was an attack launched against Jews and Christians in the housing estate," the paper's article said.

Exiled FIS leaders have pointedly avoided condemning the Algiers attack and instead blamed Paris for its support of the Algerian government.

The French government has launched a diplomatic offensive asking countries to ensure that FIS leaders be silenced, the foreign affairs ministry said.

"We have already drawn the attention of our partners to the seriousness of the situation in Algeria and on the declarations made from their territories by certain FIS leaders," said Catherine Colonna, deputy spokeswoman at the foreign affairs ministry.

Ms. Colonna did not say which other countries France had approached.

COLUMN

Pakistan reviews 'mango diplomacy' with India

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan said it was reviewing its so-called "mango diplomacy" with arch-foe India after a controversy over crates of mangoes sent to Indian leaders on behalf of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Some opposition politicians criticised Ms. Bhutto after press reports said she sent gift crates of quality chausa mangoes to Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and 40 other Indian politicians despite tense relations between the two countries over the disputed Kashmir region. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters an inquiry had been instituted into what he called a "slip-up" but he said the matter did not affect Pakistan's policy towards India. Some local newspapers said Ms. Bhutto ordered an inquiry into why the mangoes were sent in her name without her permission. "This sort of mango diplomacy started as far back as cricket diplomacy," the spokesman said, referring to a 1987 visit to India by then Pakistani President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq to see a cricket match and to defuse tension between the two countries. "It is a long-time practice which requires to be reviewed," he said. "We are looking into it."

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has named three women as the first high court judges in Pakistan. The women, all lawyers, were among 20 additional judges for the Lahore High Court in the country's most populous province Punjab whose formal appointment by President Farooq Leghari was announced in a government statement Thursday night. Most of the 17 other new judges were also lawyers, including some prominent members of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, while some were promoted from the lower judiciary. More women judges in the superior judiciary are likely to be appointed later in other provinces as part of Ms. Bhutto's plans to increase women's representation, government sources said.

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PNC members mount campaign against meeting in Gaza Strip

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Hardline Palestinian groups have mounted a strong campaign to foil Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's effort to convene a session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to endorse amendments to the PLO Charter in line with Israeli demands.

Mr. Arafat undertook to implement the amendments to references in the PLO Charter that call for the destruction of Israel during a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Paris in June.

Since then, Mr. Arafat, who has set up headquarters in autonomous Gaza, has been trying to convene a session of the parliament-like PNC, the only body which is legally empowered to amend

the charter.

The PLO chairman called on Mr. Rabin to allow all members of the 484-strong PNC to enter the autonomous Gaza Strip to attend the proposed session, a date for which has not been publicly declared, and the Israeli premier agreed with one condition: While all PNC members could enter the autonomous territory, not all would be allowed to stay on there.

Observers noted that it was in the interest of Mr. Rabin and his Labour-led government to have the PNC amend the PLO Charter if only to counter internal right-wing opposition which uses the document's reference to the destruction of Israel as a weapon to argue against the autonomy accord.

Some reports have suggested that Mr. Rabin might even make expanding auton-

omy to the rest of the West Bank contingent on the called-for amendment.

The campaign to prevent the convening of a PNC session in Gaza is led by members of the 10-group Palestinian coalition based in Damascus as well as independents. Six groups in the coalition are represented in the PNC, but the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, one of the strong forces behind the alliance, is not.

Leading the push are activists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the second and third largest groups in the PLO after Mr. Arafat's Fateh.

Local press reports quoting activists from the rejectionist front as saying that many independent members of the PNC living in Jordan and

other Arab countries as well as Europe and the United States opposed Mr. Arafat's move to convene the assembly in Gaza. No specific numbers were immediately available.

However, not all opposition is against the PLO chairman's quest to amend the organisation's charter: some of the opponents believe that it is premature to convene the Palestinians' policymaking body in the Gaza Strip before Israel allows self-rule to expand to all parts of the occupied territories.

"No matter how one puts it, the fact remains that Gaza or Jericho is not independent," said one of the activists. "The Israeli army is very much in control and there is no justification for Mr. Arafat to argue that the territories resemble an independent entity."

As such, the activist argued, "such a high Palesti-

nian body as the PNC convening in Gaza while the Israeli shadow looms over the territories will be adding insult to injury for Palestinians everywhere."

One of the fears of the critics is that Mr. Arafat might resort to unilaterally appointing up to 180 members of the council from the occupied West Bank and Gaza so that they could attend the meeting to provide quorum and give it legitimacy.

However, under the standing statutes of the council, two-thirds of the members of the council, not including those from the occupied territories, should attend to make up quorum and only at such a session could the 180 seats allocated for the occupied territories be filled.

Some reports have said that Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO, or the de facto